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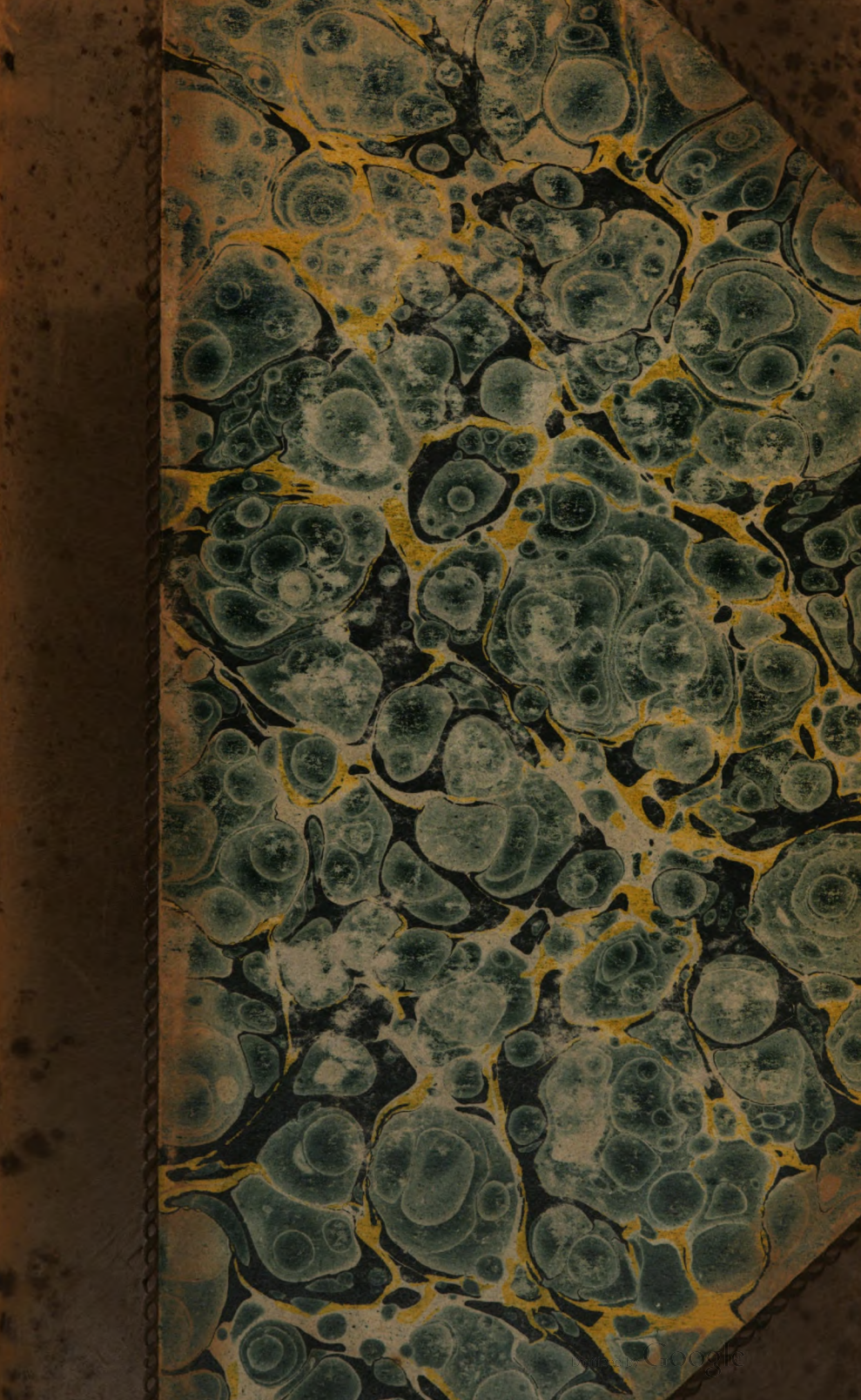
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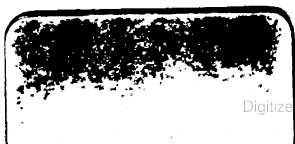
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**THE**  
**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**GODMANCHESTER.**





\*Far Simile of the Charter of King John.

20<sup>th</sup> MAY. A.D. 1213.

[illegible]



3. 14 1832

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
GODMANCHESTER,

In the County of Huntingdon;

COMPRISING  
ITS ANTIENT, MODERN, MUNICIPAL, AND  
ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

BY  
ROBERT FOX.

"The arrangement and proper use of facts is history; not a mere narrative taken up at random and embellished with poetic diction, but a regular and elaborate inquiry into every antient record and proof that can elucidate and establish them."

*Introduction to the Archaeologia.*



LONDON:  
BALDWIN AND CRADOCK.

MDCCCXXXI.

**LONDON:**  
**PRINTED BY GEORGE TAYLOR,**  
**LITTLE JAMES STREET, GRAY'S INN.**

## P R E F A C E.

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IN submitting the HISTORY OF GODMANCHESTER to the consideration of the Public, the Author is aware of the rashness with which he may be accused, in having endeavoured to give to a local history an interest beyond the precincts of the place to which it relates. In the announcement of this publication, he observed, that there is “no department of English Literature more interesting or more defective than local Topography. It embraces within its sphere not only the origin and decay of cities and towns, but local customs, which render us familiar with the institutions and habits of our forefathers. It wrests from the abyss of time those incidents which through all succeeding ages might otherwise be forgotten, and puts upon record, events which gave origin to establishments and sciences, productive of, and essentially con-

nected with, the present state and best interests of the kingdom. General Topography, comprehensive and varied in its nature, as well as difficult in elucidation, can give but a brief survey, as a map pourtrays but the sites and distances of places; and it is only where particular Histories or Descriptions of Towns have been written, that satisfactory knowledge can be obtained with respect to them. The scattered fragments of information diffused through antient and modern writers, constitute the materials of which connected Histories are formed, wherein the general reader, at but a trifling sacrifice of time and labour, may become thoroughly acquainted with the place of his birth, locality, or the internal antient and present state of his country. No History of the Town of Godmanchester has ever yet been published. Its antiquity as a probable British Settlement—its importance as a Roman Station,—and subsequent Danish Encampment,—its peculiarities in Tenure, as Antient Demesne,—its celebrity for Agriculture,—and its connection with the drainage of the county of Huntingdon and the navigation of the River Ouse, have hitherto been only incidentally alluded to and never fully demonstrated. These defects the Author has endeavoured

to remedy, by a laborious investigation into every circumstance immediately or remotely connected with the Town, and confidently hopes that to the Historian, Antiquarian, and general Reader, his work will prove an interesting specimen of local Topography, on a scale sufficiently extensive to comprehend all matters of importance incidental to his subject."

How far these objects have been attained it is for the public to judge. He may perhaps be charged with having been too minute or too diffuse in describing events which are purely local, and that the essential matter of the work might have been compressed within the limits of a few pages ; a plan generally adopted in topographical descriptions. Such objections can only obtain with those who are wholly indifferent to the history of our country ; and, to the enquiring mind, these imputed faults will constitute whatever merit the work possesses. Some apology may be considered due for the multitude of Notes inserted in the course of the work ; but, as the duty of the Historian is to record facts, and to connect or apply them in time and place to useful purposes, no position has been advanced without stating the authority on which it was founded. It



must be conceded, that books are written for the instruction of those who are in pursuit of information, not those who are familiar with the subjects they illustrate : clearness and precision ought not therefore to be considered presumptive ; and the free use of notes has been adopted, to disencumber the text as much as possible from the authorities quoted, and illustrations thought necessary.

The various occupations of Godmanchester, and its institutions as a corporate town, have enabled the Author, by the freedom and fidelity with which they have been investigated and discussed, to make its History a comparative textbook relative to Parochial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities. He has not hesitated to avail himself of information from whatever source it could be derived, from books, from records, or from men. In the two former instances he has invariably acknowledged the sources from whence it has been extracted ; but in the latter, his obligations have been too numerous to admit of individual enumeration. To E. MARTIN, of Godmanchester, H. T. BARRATT, of Huntingdon, and J. Fox, of Old Jewry, London, Esquires, he feels himself especially bound, to whom, and to all who have proffered or rendered

him assistance, in the course of his enquiries, he returns his sincere acknowledgments. To his Printer, Mr. TAYLOR, he also feels particularly obliged, for the care with which the work has been printed, much of which was required from the varieties of orthography contained in the quotations, in many instances occurring even in the same document.— Lastly, to the Patrons of his work, the Author returns his respectful thanks, and trusts that on perusing “ *The History of Godmanchester*,” they will not consider their patronage has been bestowed in vain.

GODMANCHESTER, Oct. 1, 1831.



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### ERRATA.

Page 116, line 12, *for* 1286 *read* 1276.

180, line 3, *for* country *read* county.

250, line 1, *for* Kermet *read* Kennet.

# HISTORY

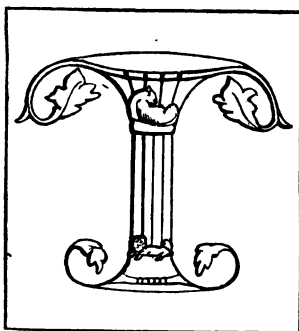
OF

## GODMANCHESTER.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### INTRODUCTION.



THE early History of Nations is, for the most part, traditional, and obscured by fable; and in no instance is this general proposition more exemplified than in that of our own country: we will therefore take but a cursory view of those circumstances which led to its names and colonizations, as far as regard the object of this work. It is supposed to have been called Albion from<sup>a</sup> a king of that name, who is re-

<sup>a</sup> "Albion, the sonne of Neptune, there regnyng aboute the yeare of the worlde's creation 2220."—*Hunfrey Lhuyd's Breuiary of Britayne.*



corded to have reigned here, A. M. 2220 ; or Al-pion, from the word Alp, which, in some of the original western languages, signified high lands or hills ; or from the white cliffs which present themselves on approaching our shores from the Continent. By the Romans, even before Cæsar's time, it was called Britannia,<sup>b</sup> which name, it is conjectured, was given to it by strangers from the coasts of Gaul and Germany, who, trafficking here, called the inhabitants Briths, from the custom among them of painting their bodies and small shields with an azure blue, which colour was by them called Brith. The Romans, extending their conquests to, and establishing their colonies in Gaul, soon became acquainted with our Island, and Romanized its name, by adding to it a Latin termination, as was their usual custom, wherever their conquests or commerce extended, as is exemplified in Mauritania, Lusitania, Aquitania, &c. ; hence we have the compound word Britannia.<sup>c</sup>

The Britons, from their insular situation, were little known to the old world before the descent of Cæsar upon the island, ante Christ. 55.<sup>d</sup> Their coasts opposite Gaul and Belgium were much frequented by traders from those shores, who became

<sup>b</sup> Lhuyd argues that the whole word Britannia is a corruption from Prydain, by the Romans, which was the name of the island amongst the Aborigines.

<sup>c</sup> Sir William Temple.

<sup>d</sup> Bruce's Historical Atlas: Milton and Smollet. A. U. C. 699.

acquainted with those who resorted, and by degrees located there, for the convenience of commerce. It was from these Aborigines that Cæsar drew his intelligence respecting the country he contemplated invading. Ancient authors unanimously agree, that the country abounded with inhabitants,<sup>e</sup> and large herds of cattle or beasts, both wild and tame. The houses of the natives were mere huts, spread over the country without order or any regular system of township, and, as was most natural, these huts were fixed wherever the convenience of wood and water and fertility of soil invited. In the interior they chiefly subsisted on milk and the flesh of animals killed in hunting; and what few clothes they wore were roughly manufactured of dried skins, but much of the body was left naked, and in most instances all, which was painted blue, to render their appearance more terrible to their enemies, or as being ornamental, or to distinguish their tribes from any accidental sojourners amongst them.<sup>f</sup> The inhabitants who resided on the coasts were more civilized than those in the interior, from their intercourse with their neighbours the Gauls, with whom they assimilated in language, customs, and religion, (previous to the Roman conquest of that province, which was of a much earlier date than their descent upon Britain;) and whom they

<sup>e</sup> Cæsar's Com.

<sup>f</sup> Richard of Cirencester, Sir Wm. Temple, and Cæsar's Com.

assisted in their efforts to repel their Roman invaders. This latter circumstance was, perhaps, a greater inducement with Cæsar to attempt the conquest of this country than any then apparent advantage in rendering it merely tributary to Rome. The island was divided into districts and the natives into tribes, under the command of princes or chieftains, who succeeded each other by right of inheritance, wisdom, or valour, which appears to be the paternal or natural government of uncivilized countries; these chieftains formed a general assembly, and elected one common leader<sup>g</sup> or chief, when their states were threatened by a common danger. There was but little iron manufactured in the country, from the imperfect knowledge of mining, and this was principally used for arms and rings, which latter articles were their current money; but their coin chiefly consisted of brass, which was obtained by barter from foreigners.<sup>h</sup>

<sup>g</sup> The government of the ancient Britons may be denominated patriarchal. Each community was governed by its elders; and every individual who could not prove his kindred to some community through nine descents, and the same number of collateral affinities, was not considered as a freeman. Beyond this degree of kindred, they were formed into new communities. The elders of the different communities were subordinate to the elders of the tribes. In times of public danger, as is recorded in the Triads, some chief of distinguished abilities was entrusted with the supreme authority over the tribes or communities, who united in common defence. Such were Caswallon (Cassivellaunus), Caradwg (Carradocus), and Owain, son of Maesan.—*Hatcher*.

<sup>h</sup> Utebantur aut nummo æreo, aut annulis ferreis, ad certum

Their religion was Druidical, and their laws were administered by the Druids, who possessed the chief traditional learning of the age ; this consisted in observations on the heavens, and a knowledge of the fixed stars, which enabled them to foretell their rising and setting, giving them thereby a seeming influence over the seasons, and power of prognosticating future events. To these may be added the importance of their doctrines, inculcating moral justice, temperance and fortitude, exemplifying them by the purity and simplicity of their own lives, (their food consisting of acorns, berries, and fruits, and their drink of water,) which, conjoined with the exercise of their religious solemnities and magisterial functions, gave them undisputed influence with, and authority over, the uncivilized natives. Such were the ancient Britons when Cæsar made his first descent on our shores.<sup>j</sup>

The counties of Cambridge, Huntingdon, Norfolk, and Suffolk, were occupied by the warlike and extensive tribe called the Iceni,<sup>k</sup> which, according to Owen in the Cambrian Register, was

*pondus examinatis, pro nummis ; ut author est Cæsar Dictator.—Richard of Cirencester.*—A similar custom still obtains with the Chinese and Japanese, who pass bars of gold, silver, or other metal for current money, without any stamp or impression, the value of which is regulated by the weight.—*Hatcher.*

The chief exports of the British were in hides and tin, which last commodity was peculiar to this Island, and in much request on the Continent.

<sup>j</sup> Camden.

<sup>k</sup> Smollet, ante Chr. 55.

derived from the word Cyn, signifying, first, a-head, forward, before, or foremost, and from which the people would be called Cyni, Cyniad, Cynion, &c.; but with the article y or *the* prefixed, Y-ceni, or the first or foremost tribe.<sup>1</sup> It is more than probable that at this period the Iceni had here a British settlement, for the Ermin-street, one of the four ancient royal roads, connecting the northern with the southern extremity of the island, passed through the present Godmanchester;<sup>m</sup> and it was doubtless their policy, as well as that of their successors the Romans, to fix their habitations near public roads, not only for the convenience of communication with other tribes, and the advantages of barter with those who passed by, or temporarily sojourned amongst them; but the richness of the meadows for pasturage, and the abundance of wood and

<sup>1</sup> They appear to have merited this honorable appellation, as in every national effort to throw off the Roman usurpation the Iceni were the most prominent and valorous.

<sup>m</sup> In the 6th Vol. of Leland's *Itinerarium Curiosum*, by Thos. Hearne, Oxford 1744, is a curious Essay towards the recovery of the courses of the four great Roman ways (it should have said British), the conclusion of which is as follows :

Fram the *South* into the *North*, takith *Erningestrete* ;

Fram the *Est* into the *West* goth *Ikeneldestrete*.

Fram *Southeast* to *Northwest*, that is sumdel grete

Fram *Dover* into *Cestre* goth *Watlyngstrete*.

The ferthe of thise is most of alle that tilleth fram *Toteneys*

Fram the one ende of *Cornwaile* anone to *Cateneys*,

Fram the *Southwest* to *Northest* into *Englonde's ende*;

*Fosse* men callith thilke way, that by many tonn doth wende.

water, would render the situation peculiarly eligible. The terror of the Roman arms, and the valor of its veteran legions, had in the time of Julius Cæsar subdued many kingdoms, provinces, and commonwealths in Europe, Asia, and Africa; the greater part of Germany had been devastated by them, and the conquest of Gaul effected. When Cæsar invaded our Island, his forces consisted of Germans, Batavians, and Gauls, and the best disciplined of his Roman Legions. Cassivelaunus<sup>a</sup> was the leader of the intrepid islanders, and had many encounters with Cæsar with various success, but dissensions and jealousies occurring amongst the British chieftains, and defections of many of them to the hostile camp,<sup>o</sup> the Iceni formed an alliance with the Romans; and Cassivelaunus, determining to capitulate, delivered hostages in token of fealty, and Britain became tributary to Rome. Not content with the nominal sovereignty of the country, and the exaction of the tribute,<sup>p</sup> the Prætors, Plautius and Ostorius, and other Roman commanders, took possession of the inland parts of the country contiguous to the southern coast, securing their stations by building castles, for-

<sup>a</sup> Cassivelaunus, or Cassibelaunus—King of the Trinobantes.

<sup>o</sup> Huntingdonshire was made to constitute part of the district called Flavia Secunda.—See Tab. hanc Geog. Antiq. Patriæ Cimelium celeberrimo viro Gul. Stukeley. Sometimes Flavia Cæsariensis.

<sup>p</sup> Under the Emperor Claudius.

tifying camps, and settling colonies; their tyranny and oppression induced the Britons in the northern part of the island, in conjunction with the Iceni, to revolt against them under Caractacus,<sup>a</sup> and take the field with a considerable force. This led to an intestine war for nearly nine years, when, in a decisive battle between the armed and well-disciplined Romans and the naked and comparatively unarmed Britons, the latter were completely vanquished, and Caractacus sent prisoner to Rome to grace the victors' triumph.<sup>r</sup>

The Britons continued in subjection to the Romans until the time of Nero, when Prasutagus, king of the Iceni, in order to secure the friendship and protection of Nero to his wife Boadicea and family, left the Emperor and his daughters coheirs to his territories. But on the death of Prasutagus, the Emperor's officers seized upon his effects, and took possession of his country in their master's name; and on being remonstrated with by Boadicea,

<sup>a</sup> Caractacus was king of the Silures, a British tribe inhabiting South Wales.

<sup>r</sup> Their kynge in times past was Cataracus, whose fame was knowne aboue the skies, who the space of nine continuall yeres, very much molested the Romans with warre; at length was taken by treason of a woman, and led to Rome in triumphe.—*Lhuyd's Breviary*, 1573.

This victory was followed in a few days with an advantage which Ostorius could not foresee; Caractacus himself, who had fled for refuge to Cartismandua, Queen of the Brigantes, was delivered into his hands by that princess.—*Smollet*.

they publicly scourged her, and brutally violated her daughters. Fired with indignation, and thirsting for revenge, she proclaimed her wrongs throughout the island; and Paulinus, the Roman lieutenant, having embarked with the major part of his forces for the subjugation of the Isle of Anglesey, the Britons availed themselves of the opportunity for a general insurrection, and suddenly attacking the Romans wherever stationed, revenged the injuries and insults of Boadicea by a general massacre, without distinction of age or sex. On Paulinus's return, he marched against the revolted Britons, whose army consisted (Dio. Cassius) of 230,000 men, with the very disproportionate power of only 10,000 soldiers, but these he judiciously encamped in a narrow tract of ground, facing a large plain, where his rear was secured by a forest;\* the Britons, animated by the intrepidity and exhortations of Boadicea, paraded before them in large bodies, exulting at the insignificance of their enemies; when the Roman soldiers, advancing upon them undismayed, with short steps and sword in

\* Boadicea is represented as a tall woman, of remarkable beauty, and the most dignified deportment, with a commanding severity in her countenance, a loud shrill voice, and a great quantity of yellow hair that flowed down to her loins. She wore a massy golden chain about her neck, a flowing robe of various colours, over which was thrown a mantle of coarser stuff. She held a spear in her hand, and from a throne of turf harangued her army, recapitulating the wrongs they had suffered from the Romans.—*Dio. l. 62.*



hand, threw them into consternation and confusion, so that they fell easy victims to their conquerors.<sup>†</sup> The bloodshed of the day perhaps exceeded that of any other battle in ancient times. The waggons in the rear of the Britons obstructed their flight; a dreadful slaughter ensued; neither sex nor age was spared; for the wives and children of the British were brought to the field to behold the anticipated triumph, and, together with the vanquished, fell in one promiscuous carnage. It is recorded that upwards of 80,000 were slain in the field of battle. The heroic Boadicea narrowly escaped falling into the hands of Paulinus, and finding all hopes of re-establishing the liberties and effecting the independence of her country lost,<sup>u</sup> destroyed herself by poison.

Under Vespasian and Domitian, the Roman laws, customs, habits, arms, manners, feasts, baths, language, and learning, were introduced into Britain, and Julius Agricola<sup>v</sup> sailing round it, first proved it to be an island. Roman luxuries effeminated the minds and manners of the natives, and paved the way for the formation of those civil in-

<sup>†</sup> Tacitus.

<sup>u</sup> Platts.

<sup>v</sup> The early Greeks and Romans doubted whether Britain was an island, or part of the Continent: nor was the fact ascertained till the time of the pro-prætor, Julius Agricola.

*Tac. Vit. Agric. c. 38—Dio. Cass. Hist. Rom. lib. 39.*

Tacitus the Historian, who wrote the life of Agricola, married his daughter.

stitutions which enabled their conquerors to hold them in subjection for nearly five centuries. The power of Rome at length underwent the revolution of empires: it gradually declined; and its contentions with the barbarous northern hordes of Goths and Vandals, with which it was continually inundated, drew from this country the legions which held it in subjection; when the Britons, besieged and harassed by the Picts and Scots, were abandoned by the Romans to their own valour, government, and choice of a king.<sup>w</sup> They petitioned Ætius,<sup>x</sup> the Roman general, in vain, for protection against their invaders; and consequently, under Vortigern, whom they elected king, invited the Saxons to their aid, who, with Hengist and Horsa, of the race of Odin, came over in great numbers to their assistance about the year 450. They first had the Isle of Thanet assigned them, and then the county of Kent for their colonization; and, in conjunction with the native Britons, marched against the Picts and Scots with miracu-

<sup>w</sup> In the reign of Valentinian the Third.

<sup>x</sup> Speed quotes from the venerable Bede parts of the petition of the distressed Britons. "The barbarians driue us back to the sea, the sea againe putteth us back upon the barbarians; thus betweene two kindes of deaths, we are either slaughtered or drowned." And the more to represent their miseries, and move him to their assistance, they urge, "We are the remnaunt that suruiue of the Brittaines, and are your subjects, who, besides the enemie, are afflicted by famine and mortalitie, which at this present extreemly rageth in our land."

lous success, and after many severe encounters drove them back into the most northern part of the province. Hengist and Horsa, with the acquiescence of the Britons, sent for reinforcements of their kinsmen and countrymen, who, stationing themselves in Northumberland, preserved that frontier from farther irruptions from the Picts and Scots, and established what yet remains the boundaries of the two kingdoms. Secured from the molestation of their old enemies, jealousies and dissensions arose between the Britons and their Saxon allies, who had erected themselves into two kingdoms, the north and south Saxons, the one in Northumberland and the other in Kent; and being joined by numerous bodies of their countrymen, amongst whom the Angles from Schonen and Jutland formed a large proportion, the natives were gradually subdued and driven into Wales, and the Saxons took possession of the whole island, when they changed its name from Britain into Anglesland, or England. In 150 years from their first entrance into Britain, they effected its subjugation, and dividing it into seven kingdoms, laid the foundation of the Saxon Heptarchy about the year 600.

The Saxons having obtained the entire possession of the country, driven the Scots beyond the Tweed, and the chief remnant of the Britons having passed into Wales, the few who remained were spoiled of their goods and lands, and seized upon as vassals by their conquerors. They were employed

in feeding cattle, tillage, and all the menial offices of life ; and their children were considered part of the property of the lord of the soil, like the cattle or other stock belonging to it. Thus commenced the system of villenage in England, which was not finally abolished until the reign of Henry VIIIth, and on which some farther observations will be found in our extracts from Domesday, relative to Godmanchester. The Saxon princes of the seven kingdoms, into which they divided the country, soon became jealous and emulous of each others power; continual quarrels and aggressions arose between them; and upwards of 200 years were passed in all the turmoil of civil dissensions, devastating sieges, mutual invasions, and usurpations, when, about the year 828, Egbert, a descendant from the West Saxon kings, by the conquests of his ancestors and the success of his own arms, subdued the kingdoms of the Heptarchy, and was crowned the first sole monarch of England.

A second change was thus effected in the manners, language, and the laws of England, as well as in its very name. The patriarchal government of the Druids amongst the Briths was followed by the pretorial of the Roman invaders, and which now, in like manner, was supplanted by Saxon constitutions. The old name of Albion had been mutated into Britannia, and now was succeeded by Angle-land, or England. The language, formerly British, had, during the occupation of the

Romans, been Latinized, and by the Angles was changed into Saxon or English. The districts of the natives had been converted into Roman colonies, and were now divided into Saxon shires or counties. The ancient chiefs, or leaders, were succeeded by Roman Prætors or Governors, and then by Saxon Konings, or Kings of the territories they presided over or had subdued ; the major part of which they reserved as sources of revenue for themselves, and the remainder they shared amongst their commanders and soldiers ; the former, to whom the larger divisions were awarded, were styled Eorls or Barons, some of the latter Knights, and others Freemen ; thus distinguishing each class from the Villeins who held nothing but at the will of the Lord. The tranquillity of the Saxons in the possession of this country was but of short duration, and the security of their dominion was threatened by frequent irruptions from the Danes, whose invasions were sometimes repelled by force of arms, and at others by the presentation of tributes, which occasioned great exactions from and discontent amongst the people, as they gave rise to the oppressive impost called Danegeld. These assailants were facilitated in their enterprizes on this country by the numerous Danes who had located throughout the realm, when Ethelred<sup>y</sup> digested a plan for the general massacre of the Danes in England. This perfidious and bloody deed was amply revenged by

<sup>y</sup> Sir William Temple.

their countrymen, at the instance of Sweyn, King of Denmark, by renewed and more formidable invasions, so that when Alfred ascended the throne, a period to which we shall have particularly to allude, we find them under Hunga, Hubba, Guthrum, Oseitel, and Amund, in the almost entire occupation of the kingdom.

It is unnecessary to enlarge farther on the general history of our country; but as the station of Godmanchester was most probably the site of a British settlement,<sup>2</sup> doubtless of Roman occupation, subsequently a Danish encampment, and many of its

This suggestion is confirmed by the Rev. Thomas Leman, of Bath, in an interesting MS. Memoir relating to the Antiquities of Huntingdonshire, bearing date the 29th of August, 1822, and which also traces the British roads through the county, and Godmanchester in particular. "Huntingdonshire was inhabited by the Icen-Magni, a powerful Celtic tribe; and the eastern part of the county (as it is evident from its present situation) being an extensive marsh, while the higher grounds in the west and in the centre were covered with woods, seems not to have had a British town within its limits, if we except Godmanchester, although Castor, on the banks of the Nen, was close to its northern borders. Many British roads, as well as Roman, passed through it in various directions, amongst which that called the Ermyn street was the most visible. This great British track-way entered the county with the present north road from Caxton, proceeded along the turnpike straight to Godmanchester, and passing the Ouze at Huntingdon, probably kept the high grounds near Stukeley, where many barrows seem to point out the line as far as Alconbury-Hill; where it left the turnpike on its right and diverged more to the west, on what is now called the Drove or Bullock-road: this it pursued for near fifteen miles without passing

customs are of Saxon origin, the following history of them would have been incomplete without tracing their foundation through the obscurity of past time, and which is the only apology that can be offered for this brief survey of the introduction of our Saxon ancestors, their language, and their laws, into our country.

through a single village, but leaving Upton, Washingley House, Haddon, and Sibson to the right, it reached Wansford, and then crossed the Nen into Northamptonshire, throwing off a branch to Durnomagus or Castor. Although now unknown, there must have been a second British way connecting the (*antient British station* and subsequent) Roman town Durnomagus (*now Castor*) with Camborsham or Cambridge, which ran probably in the line of the subsequent Roman road, except that it crossed the Ouse near Hartford and Hemingford on its way to Fenny Stanton. A third running easterly towards Ad Taum or Taesbro' (*Ad Tuam or Tasburgh*) in Norfolk, together with two others running westerly, the one proceeding to Ratis or Leicester, and the other to Benoms or Claychester."—(*Bennones or Venones, Claybrook in Leicestershire.*)



## CHAPTER II.

## GODMANCHESTER—THE DUROLIPONS OF THE ROMANS.



HAVING seen in our introductory Chapter the Romans in the occupation of this part of the country, we will now adduce those arguments found on record, or that reasonably occur, to settle the question of situation of the ancient Roman station—Durolipons. —A contention on this point of antiquity has long existed between the towns of Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The few advocates on the part of the former found their suppositions on assertions vaguely made by writers on general topography, and whose mistakes may be readily excused, when we consider the variety of information they have to collect, arrange, and reduce to system. Amongst the foremost of these was Robert Talbot,<sup>a</sup> an eminent antiquarian, whose MS.

<sup>a</sup> He was a native of Thorp, in Northamptonshire, and died in 1538.



Collections were of great service to Leland, Bale, and Camden, and who is thus quoted by Carolus Stephanus in his "Dictionarum Historicum Geographicum," &c.: "Durolipons,<sup>b</sup> a town in England, commonly called Huntington;" yet even he adds, "but, according to Camden, Gormonchester, a neighbouring town, which is also written Godmanchester." It was thus, and even without the shadow of an argument being advanced in support of the position, that Huntingdon claimed *authority* for its Roman origin; nor was any attempt made to establish the truth of such assumption until the year 1808, when Brayley, in his Description of Huntingdonshire, gave a detailed account of the site occupied by the Castle Hills, and endeavoured, from the imposing appearance they present to the curious traveller on his approach to them from Godmanchester, to draw conclusive inferences to fix the station at that place. Carruthers, a well-informed and ingenious Scotchman, in 1824 published an interesting volume, entitled "The History of Huntingdon," in which he merely quotes the words of Brayley, whose arguments we shall contend with when we consider the origin and various occupations of the castle at Huntingdon, and the characters of its baronial chiefs. On the other hand, a numerous host of ancient and modern

<sup>b</sup> Durolipons, Angliæ op. vulgò Huntington Talboto: Camdeno vero Gormonchester, pagus vicinus; qui et Godmanchester scribitur.

authors place the station at Godmanchester.—The indefatigable Sir Robert Cotton,<sup>c</sup> the Huntingdonshire antiquarian, from whose MSS. in the British Museum the learned have derived, in matters of antiquity, much valuable information, wrote the article “Huntingdonshire,” in Speed’s “Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine”; in which, speaking of Godmanchester, he observes, “for certain it was that Roman station, Durosipont of the Bridges named, so many hundred years (until the light of our Great Britain story overshadowed it) forgotten.” This great light was Camden, who says, “it was the Duroliponte of the Emperor Antoninus.” In a republication of Richard of Cirencester, by the Rev. Mr. Hatcher, with a Translation of the original Treatise, “*De Situ Britanniae*,” and a Commentary on the Itinerary, the station is unhesitatingly fixed at Godmanchester. In Iter the 3d of the learned Monk, occurs Duraliponte; and which Iter is compared with the 9th of Antonine, where it is named Durolipontem—both of which by Hatcher are called Godmanchester. In illustration of which we here insert the Itinera.

<sup>c</sup> Sir Robert Cotton, the distinguished antiquary, was born at Denton, in the county of Huntingdon, Jan. 22d, 1570, and died at Cotton House, Westminster, May 6th, 1631. No eulogium can contain the praises due to this eminent man.—“*Si monumentum requieris, circumspecte!*”—may be said of him in the republic of History and Antiquities.

RICHARD—ITER III.		ANTONINE—ITER IX.	
A Londinio Lindum coloniam usque sic.		Various Readings	
Corrected Numbers.	SITES OF STATIONS. From London to Lincoln.		
XII	Near Rumford.	Durolitum .....	XV
XVI	Near Chelmsford.	Casaromagus .....	XVI
XV	East of Kelvedon.	Canonium .....	XII
VIII	Colchester.	Camalodunum .....	VIII
		Ad Ansam .....	VI
VI	Banks of the Stour.	Combretonium .....	XV
XV	Castor near Norwich.	Sito Magum .....	XXII
XXII		Venta Icenorum .....	XXXI
XXIII		ITER V.	
XX	North side of the } Cam, Cambridge. }	Icianos .....	XXXV
XX		Camboricum .....	XXV
XX		Durolipontem .....	XXVIII
XX	Castor.	Durobrivas .....	XXXV
XXV	Durobrivis was Ches-	Causennim .....	XXX
XXI	terton on the Nen.	Lindum .....	XXVI
XX	Ancaster.		XX
XX	Lincoln.		XXXVI
XX			XXX

The variations in the numerals will appear strange, but may be accounted for as mistakes of the copyists.

In his Commentary, Hatcher observes, that “Ici-anis may have been Ichlingham, and Camboricum was most probably at Cambridge, from whence there is a Roman road discoverable to Lincoln. To the first station, Godmanchester, this Iter goes on the great communication between Colchester and Chester, which, for the sake of distinction, may be called the *Via Devana*; and from Godmanchester to Lincoln, on the eastern branch of the Ermyrn-street, which was adopted by the Romans. Twenty miles from Godmanchester we find the great station of Chesterton, on one side of the Nen, and Castor on the other; which probably gave rise to the two names of *Durobrivæ* and *Durnomagus*, the Roman and British towns severally noticed by Antonine and Richard.” The 17th Iter of Richard we also insert in confirmation :

RICHARD—ITER XVII.		Corrected Numbers.	SITES OF STATIONS.
Ab Anderidâ (Eboracum) usque, sic.			From East Bourne to York.
Sylva Anderida, m. p...			East Bourne.
Novio mago.....		xxxx	Holwood Hill.
Londinio .....	xv	xv	London.
Adfines .....		xxviii	Brougham.
Durolisponde .....		xxx	Godmanchester.
Durnomago.....	xxx	xx	Castor, on the left bank of the Nen.
Corisennis .....	xxx	xxv	Ancaster.
Lindo .....	xxx	xxi	Lincoln.
In Medio.....	xv	xv	
Ab Abum .....	xv	xv	Winterton.
Unde transis in Maximam.			
Ad Petuariam .....	vi	vi	Brough.
Deinde Eboraco .....		xxx	York.

The celebrated William Stukely had no doubts upon this point; for, in describing the course of the Via Devana through Cambridge, in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, republished 1757, 4to, at page 203 we find “ Out of the ruins of this city—(*Granta*,<sup>d</sup> now *Cambridge*)—William the Norman Duke built a castle;<sup>e</sup> a very straight Roman road comes to it from Durosiponte, Godmanchester. It passes as straight through the present Cambridge by Christ College and Emanuel College, over Gog-magog hills, by Vandulbury Camp, so to Camulodunum, Colchester.” From the *Magna Britannia* of the Rev. Thomas Cox,<sup>f</sup> published in 1720, 4to, we may conclude,<sup>g</sup> that not only Camden but “ other antiquaries agree, that this is the same city that the Emperor Antoninus, in his *Itinerary*, calls *Duroli-ponte* (instead of *Durosiponte*, an easy mistake of one letter), which, in the British language, signifies a bridge over the Ouse; for we must own that the river went indifferently by the names of Use, Ise, Ose, or Ouse; and so the name agrees well to this town, which is situated by the bridge over that river, to which if we add, that the distances between *Camboritum* or *Granchester*, in *Cambridgeshire*, and *Durobrivæ* or *Dornford*, in this county,

<sup>d</sup> “ *Kair-Grant, i. e. Grantecastria, que modò dicitur Cantabrigia.*”—*Henric. Hunt.*

<sup>e</sup> Mr. Essex, in *Archæologia*, vol. iv., thinks it cannot be older than the time of Edward 1st, or Henry the 3d.

<sup>f</sup> Vicar of Bromfield in Essex.

<sup>g</sup> P. 1046.

between which it is placed in the Itinerary, answer very well, and that many old Roman coins have been frequently dug up here, there can be no doubt but that the conjecture is almost certain."

Dr. James Dugdale, in his *New British Traveller*, 1819, 4to, confirms the above, and points out the course of the Roman roads through Godmanchester, and shows their intersection at this station. In volume 3d, page 66, writing of Huntingdonshire, he observes, that "the chief Roman stations in this county were Duroliponte, or Godmanchester; and Durobrivæ, near Dornford-ferry, about mid-way between Chesterton and Castor, in Northamptonshire. The principal Roman roads, three in number, intersected each other at Godmanchester—one of them has been called the British (*Roman*) Ermin.<sup>b</sup> This seems to have entered Huntingdonshire from the neighbourhood of Cæsar's camp, or Salenæ, in Bedfordshire, and to have proceeded by Crane-hill, in the track since known by the name of Hail-lane, whence, passing through Toseland, Godmanchester, and Huntingdon, it continued by Alconbury Weston and Upton; and falling into the Bullock-road, passed to the east of the 'Ruins of Ogerston,'<sup>1</sup> and finally entered Northamp-

<sup>b</sup> A typographical error, as the road described is the Roman Ermin-street; and the road subsequently described under that name is the British Ermin.

<sup>1</sup> Probably a corruption of *Agger* and *Stane*, being the remains of a tumulus on the British track-way, the course of which it here follows, see page 15.

tonshire at Wansford. The Roman<sup>k</sup> (*British*) Ermin-street entered this county from Cambridgeshire, in the vicinity of Papworth St. Agnes, and, proceeding to Godmanchester nearly in the line of the present high road, followed the course of the British (*Roman*) Ermin to the neighbourhood of Alconbury; when, branching to the eastward, it again assumed the line of the high road through Sawtry St. Andrews, Stilton, and Chesterton, to Durobrivæ, whence, crossing Northamptonshire, it entered into Rutlandshire, near Stamford. The Via Devana entered from Cambridgeshire, in the neighbourhood of Fenny Stanton, and proceeded to Godmanchester as the present turnpike road, thence pursuing the track of the British Ermin to Alconbury it passed to the north of Buckworth and Old Weston, and entered Northamptonshire in the vicinity of Clapton."

The Rev. T. Leman, in the Memoir quoted in a note on our first Chapter, states, that "the Romans had two stations of considerable importance in this county, one at Godmanchester and the other at Chesterton, near Water-Newton on the Nen. The former, though now completely destroyed, is still

<sup>k</sup> "The Roman military road, (*via Militaria*) or Hereman-street, (Saxon,) *formed on the course of the original British track-way*, was made leading from Newhaven, at the mouth of the river Ouse in Sussex, through London to Lincoln, A.D. 69. —6th of Nero Claudius Domitian Cæsar, Emperor of Rome."—*Stukely's Itinerarium*.

discovered by its Saxon termination of Chester, by the coins found within it, according to Leland, and by the meeting of at least three Roman roads on the same spot. From the number of Itineraries in which it is mentioned being greatly corrupted, there may have been formerly a doubt about its name, although all our better antiquaries agree in calling it Durolipons." He afterwards observes, that "the county is traversed by three considerable Roman roads, one of which, the Ermyn-street, enters it on the same line with the British track-way, and continues with it as far as Godmanchester, where it receives the Via Devana, a road from Colchester to Chester on one side, and that from Sandy in Bedfordshire on the other, and crosses the Ouse with them to Huntingdon. The second of these certainly bears to the left in the valley towards the village of Alconbury, while the Roman Ermyn-street ascending the hill towards Alconbury-Hill, there joins the British way, and near the 68th mile-stone separates itself from it, while the latter is continued to Wansford. The Roman road runs with the present turnpike by Stangate-Hole, Stilton, and Norman-Cross, where, bending a little to the west, it proceeds to the great station of Durobrivus, where it passes the Nen. 2dly, The road from Colchester to Chester, which was first discovered by Dr. Mason, and is known by the name of the Via Devana, enters the county with the Cambridge turnpike near Fenny-Stanton, goes



with it through Godmanchester, passes the Ouse, and, running near the Gallows, is plainly to be traced for two or three miles; but when it approaches the great North road from Buckden to Stilton it passes through broken ground and is lost. It points however to Alconbury village, leaving the hills on its right; is supposed by Dr. Mason to have gone along the side of the brook to Weston, and through Hammerton, Winwick, and Thurning, towards Sylford in Northamptonshire: but it appears to me to have borne a little more to the left towards Solum Wood, and to have proceeded not far from Clapton to Wadenhoe, where there is a perfect Roman camp, and so by Stanion, near Cottingham, from whence it is again visible all the way to Leicester. A third runs visibly from the station below Cæsar's camp at Sandy, in Beds, which I discovered in 1791; this crosses the road from Everton to Tempsford, and passes through a farm-yard belonging to Mr. Astle, then some enclosures to a farm-house the property of General Packe, which stands upon it, then through another enclosure to Tempsford Cow-common; it subsequently ascends the hill close by a tumulus planted with trees, called the Hen and Chickens, then proceeding by the side of the Hedge-row, and leaving Hardwicke to the east, after crossing the road from Gamlingay to Saint Neots, it passes Paxton and the Offords to the left, and proceeds directly to Godmanchester. A fourth went from

Godmanchester<sup>1</sup> directly over the Ouse between Graffham and Perry, in a line for Stanley and Agden Wood, towards the great station of Irchester near Higham Ferrars; and there was a fifth, which ran, I believe, from the north<sup>m</sup> bank of the Ouse near Huntingdon, possibly by Hartford into the Fens."

What has been advanced, in the way of admissions of historiographers and antiquarians, may be considered sufficient; nevertheless, before we proceed to our argument, which, in connection with the above-cited authorities, may be deemed conclusive, we will take the farther testimony of the Rev. G. C. Gorham, as recorded in his excellent History of Eynesbury and St. Neots: "A Roman road unquestionably passes through both these parishes. The Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester, and that of Antonine, are both, it is true, silent with regard

<sup>1</sup> Probably crossing the Ouse at the present Godmanchester Wash, where there might have been a safe passage over (previously to the establishment of a navigation) to Portholme, and from thence in the direction of Bromham Bridge, as set forth.

<sup>m</sup> This fifth road was a branch from the Via Devana, which, leaving Godmanchester on the left, crossed the Ouse at Hartford, where there is still a ford-way; near which, some few years since, were found two primitive British stone scelts, or axes, three inches broad at their base, and one inch at their other extremity; five and a half inches long, and one inch and a half thick, wedge-shaped, with attenuated edges; together with a Roman spur of singular construction, the rowel having twelve points, and being an inch and a half in diameter. These valuable antiques, in the possession of the Author, had doubtless been there accidentally buried, after some conflict between the Y-ceni and the Romans.

to such a Roman way; but it is universally admitted that those works point out only a limited number of the roads and stations which occur in Britain. The road alluded to is that which connected the stations of Sandy, (Salenæ,) and Godmanchester, (Durolipons.) That such a Roman street existed was first suggested by Professor Mason of Cambridge. In 1791, the Rev. T. Leman, of Bath, satisfactorily traced it from Chesterton on the Ivel (the site of the Roman town Salenæ) as far as the parish of Eynesbury: the line has since been distinctly pursued through the parish of St. Neots, and thence to Durolipons, the station on the Ouse at Godmanchester"—see pages 2 and 3. And again, at page 15, "We find either decided stations, traces of intrenchments, or other Roman antiquities, at the following places on the Ouse, or its branches: Sandy (Salenæ) on the Ivel, Eynesbury, Godmanchester (Durolipons), and Holywell; all of which posts are nearly at equal intervals, and would be well calculated to defend this river as a barrier against the incursions of an enemy approaching the Nen from Cambridgeshire."

It has been objected, that it was contrary to the policy of the Romans to form their encampments on a plain, and that they would, as a matter of course, have given the preference to Huntingdon for their occupation, from the Castle-hills presenting a site more agreeable to their usual tactics. But in all ages mankind have been alike subservient

to the adage—" *Necessitas non leges habet*,"—and we accordingly find<sup>n</sup> that their camps or stations were occasionally pitched on but slight elevations, on level plains, on hills, on mountains, or where their necessities and localities directed. The Romans<sup>o</sup> were a brave and heroic people, who chose rather to trust to such works as they threw up with their own hands, near ground on which, if they thought fit, they could conveniently draw out to fight, (making their camps and stations sufficiently strong to prevent a surprise, or defend themselves in, till assistance could be had,) rather than fortify such fastnesses as would show they were afraid of the enemy.

The hills at Huntingdon present but a very limited prospect compared with the more extensive one from those which form the south boundary of Godmanchester. The latter comprehend within their view, in the east and south, the high lands extending into Cambridgeshire ; in the south-west the rich valley and river leading to the station Salenæ in Bedfordshire; and an extent of country to the west and north, fifty-fold greater than may be viewed from the Castle-hills. The site of the present town of Godmanchester was peculiarly fitted for their perma-

<sup>n</sup> " *Primum locum habent (Castra) quæ ex campo in eminentiam leniter attolluntur—secundum, quæ in plano constituuntur; tertium, quæ in colle; quartum, quæ in monte; quintum, quæ in loco necessario.*"—*Hygenus de Castramentione*.

<sup>o</sup> Vide John Watson in *Archæologia*.

nent occupation, with a watch-tower or beacon placed on the hills to the south: and that they had such a watch-tower may be fairly inferred from a close there situated, which is and has for centuries been called the Beacon-field,<sup>p</sup> in transfers of it from one proprietor to another.

From this watch-tower the Romans commanded such an extent of country as prevented the possibility of their encampment being taken by surprise, and gave them time to direct their chief strength to whatever point from whence their assailants might come. Here, too, they had the *lingula*<sup>q</sup> or angle, formed by the diversion of the Ouse from the north to the east, giving them the benefit of a natural fortification, from being bounded by the river on the north and south, whilst their forces were, if necessary, marshalled to receive their invaders on the east and west. Here also occurred the junction of three of their principal roads, an advantage not to be neglected by them, or a position to be granted to the but imperfectly subdued natives; all of which, in connection with the innumerable quantity of Roman coins<sup>r</sup> that have been and are still found

<sup>p</sup> Vide Court Rolls of the Borough.

<sup>q</sup> "We know, likewise, from many of the stations, *per lineam valli*, and elsewhere, the Romans were particularly fond of chusing the *lingula* or angle between two rivers, as by that means they saved the trouble of other fortifications."—*John Strange in Archaeol.*

<sup>r</sup> The Author of this work has in his possession no less than 142 copper coins of Roman Emperors, Consuls, &c. all of

in Godmanchester, whilst none have been discovered on the opposite banks of the Ouse, (particularly if we can satisfactorily account for the appearances presented by the Castle-hills,) may lead us safely to infer, that Godmanchester was the Durolipons of the Romans.

which have either been dug or ploughed up within the last twenty years; not in any one particular field, but in the various fields occupying the site which he has awarded to the Roman camp. Amongst them are those of Cæsar, Augustus, Tiberius, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Trajan, Hadrian, Antonine, and others. A list and particular description of which he proposes publishing in a separate Essay. A silver coin found in the year 1829, of the Empress Sabina, is here represented; it is in fine preservation.



Julia Sabina was a Roman lady of distinction, celebrated for her private as well as public virtues. At the instance of Plotina, the wife of Trajan, she was married to Publius Ælius Adrian, who succeeded to the Imperial Purple on the death of Trajan, A.D. 117. His brutality towards Sabina has but few parallels in history; at length, being himself afflicted with dropsy, he poisoned her, lest she should survive him, after they had been married thirty-eight years—A. D. 138. Divine honors were paid to her memory.—Ob: the Head of Sabina with SABINA AVGVSTA HADRIANI AVG.—Rev: a Figure of Concord in a sitting posture, bearing a burning lamp in her right hand.—CONCORDIA AVGVSTA.

## HUNTINGDON CASTLE BUILT A.D. 917.

IN controversies respecting this question, much stress has been laid upon the words of Camden—"On the river near the bridge, which is fair built of stone, are to be seen the mount and site of a castle, which in the year 917 King Edward the Elder *built anew*;"\* which last words are commonly interpreted *rebuilt*. But if we consider the historical facts of that prince's reign, we may conclude that Camden's words mean—not *rebuilt*, but *first built*, or *newly built*.

On the death of Alfred, and Edward's succession to the throne of England, in the year 901, his title was disputed by Ethelwald, the son of Alfred's eldest brother, who, repairing to the Northumbrian Danes, ever disaffected to the Saxon monarchy, and ready for revolt under any leader, was proclaimed king, and his rebellious standard was joined by the East Anglian and Mercian Danes, and a powerful party in the kingdom. Edward forthwith made an expedition into East Anglia and Mercia, reduced the Danes to subjection, and in

\* The argument itself arises from the translators and commentators of Camden putting a forced construction on the verb *instaurare*, which as frequently implies *prepare*, *build*—as *repair*, *rebuild*. Camden's words are "Ad flumen propè pontem qui e saxo viuo speciosus est, moles et area Castri cernitur, quod anno reparatæ salutis 917 Edwardus Senior instauravit."—*Cam. Brit.* p. 395, f. edit. 1590.

the contest Ethelwald was slain. The Anglicized and foreign Danes, more bent on plunder than the glory of conquest, notwithstanding this defeat, had many piratical skirmishes and encounters with the Saxons, until Edward took the entire occupation of East Anglia, Northumbria, and Mercia, and built<sup>t</sup> fortresses or castles, which he garrisoned for their defence. As history is silent with respect to any castle or fortress at Huntingdon, previous to this period, the origin of the Castle may safely be referred to the year 917. A further, and indeed conclusive inference, in conjunction, may be taken from the following extract from the Norman survey, about a hundred and eighty years subsequent to this event :

IN BURGO HUNTEDONE.  
—In loco Castri fuēr xx mansiones ad om̃s c̃svetudines reddentes p̃ annu xvj sol 7 viij den<sup>7</sup> ad firmā regis. quæ m<sup>o</sup>absunt.

IN THE BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON. — In the place where the Castle stands formerly were twenty mansions, paying all customary dues, and sixteen shillings and eightpence to the King's farm, which are now wanting.

The Rotulus Wintoniensis, taken in Alfred's time, is allowed to be the basis on which the documents called Domesday-book were compiled, and

<sup>t</sup> " He fortified the towns of Chester, Eddesbury, Warwick, Cherbury, Buckingham, Towcester, Maldon, Huntingdon, and Colchester;" or, in other words, he built and garrisoned castles in those places.—*Hume*, 4to edit. 1762, p. 71.

D



the object of William's commissioners in their survey, was to ascertain what changes, whether of increase or diminution, had taken place in the houses, population, &c. of the kingdom, that the tax of Danegeld might, when necessary, be equitably laid. Not only the roll of Winchester, but tradition would bear them out in stating, that previous to the erection of the then Castle, the site had been occupied by twenty mansions. The recital of the fact, in the Inquest returned from Huntingdon, might be a circumstance insisted upon by the inhabitants as a hint to the King's Seneschal or Bailiff, that the dues paid for those houses being lost, it was but just that that portion of the farm should in future be remitted.

The commanding situation of the site, its contiguity to the river, and its forming a barrier between the East Angles and the kingdom of Mercia, were powerful inducements why Edward should erect here a Saxon castle; but these arguments lose much of their force when applied to the period of the occupation of the country by the Romans.

Though the castle was built in the year 917, its strength and dimensions were probably insignificant to what they assumed subsequent to the Norman Conquest, as it is a generally admitted fact, and particularly insisted upon by Grose,<sup>a</sup> "that castles walled with stone, and designed for residence, as well as defence, are for the most part of

<sup>a</sup> Grose's *Antiq. of England and Wales*.—*Pref.*

no higher antiquity than the Conquest; for although the Saxons, Romans, and even antient Britons, had castles built with stone, yet they were few in number, and, through neglect, so much decayed, that little more than their ruins were remaining, and this is assigned by many historians and antiquarians as one of the reasons for the facility with which William made himself master of this country." This statement is corroborated by Agard.<sup>v</sup>

Soon after the Norman Conquest, we find Waldeof,<sup>w</sup> or Waltheof, a Saxon, Earl of Huntingdon, Northampton, and Northumberland, in possession

<sup>v</sup> For I read in the Historye of Normandye, wrytten in Frenche, that when Sweyne, King of Denmark, entered the realme against Kinge Alred or Allured, to revenge the night slaughter of the Danes done by the Saxons in Englande, he subdued all before him, because there were no fortes or castles to withstand or stop him; and the reason yielded is, because the fortes of England, for the most part, were buylte after the Normans possessed the realme.—*Agard's Antiq. Discourses*, vol. i. p. 188.

In those dayes (in the Saxon's time I mean) were very few such defensible places as we now call castles, that being a French name; so that though the English were a bold and warlike people, yet for want of the like strong holds, they were much the less able to resist their enemies.—*Sir William Dugdale's Warwickshire*.

<sup>w</sup> It was the seat of Waltheof, the great Saxon Earl, as of his succeeding heires, and it doth yet remain the head of that honour, on which in other shires many knights fees and sixteene in this attended.—*Lansdown MS. Brit. Mus. No. 921, fo. 28, C.*

See also Sir Robert Cotton, in Speed's Theatre of Great Britaine.

of the castle and honour of Huntingdon. The events of the Norman usurpation were yet too recent not to have, particularly amongst the Saxons, many secret enemies to the continuance of its power. Waltheof attached himself to the cause of Edgar Atheling, nephew of Edward the Confessor, and heir to the throne in the Saxon line, and engaged in numerous conspiracies in support of that prince. Uniting with other nobles, and urged and assisted by Malcolm, king of Scotland, who had married Edgar's sister, he made a powerful effort for the restoration of the Saxon dynasty about five years after the Conquest. The issue was unsuccessful, though for a time it threatened the stability of the Norman's assumption; but William was so charmed with the valor and constancy of Waltheof, particularly in his defence of the city of York, that he resolved to purchase his friendship by patronage and confidence, instead of sacrificing him to his resentment. He gave him his niece Judith in marriage, together with considerable possessions, in addition to his hereditary property.

Perhaps more from implacable hatred and envy of his cotemporaries, the Norman potentates, (whose services to William in the subjugation of the kingdom had been amply rewarded by liberal grants of lands, which escheated into the royal hands from the Barons who had opposed him, and offices of great power in the state,) than any regard for the

Danes; and all hopes of the Saxon succession being destroyed; regardless of former instances of royal clemency and munificence, Waltheof entered into correspondence with Sweyn, King of Denmark, and Fitz-Auber, or Fitz-Osbern, Earl of Hereford, a Norman baron, in favour of Harold's sons, who were under the protection of Drone, King of Ireland; and on the departure of William to visit his dukedom of Normandy, digested with them a conspiracy for the restoration of the Danish line. The scheme was abortive; for, whether from compunction, or apprehension of the issue, when all was prepared for the enterprize, Waltheof confessed his treason to Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, the brother of King William, who had been left Vicegerent in England, A. D. 1075. Notwithstanding this confession, which enabled Odo to counteract the plans of the conspirators, Waltheof<sup>\*</sup> and Fitz-Auber suffered decapitation at Winchester, and were the only two instances of noblemen executed in England during the reign of William the Conqueror. A baron of the restless intrigue and personal intrepidity of Waltheof would doubtless increase the security of his castle at Huntingdon; but perhaps it attained its greatest strength, extent, and magnificence during the reign of Stephen, or the contentions between the St. Lizes and the Scots in

<sup>\*</sup> Waltheof was first buried beneath the scaffold on which he suffered, but his remains were afterwards removed to Croyland Abbey, where, as Ingulph asserts, they worked many miracles.

that of Henry 2d. Judith, widow of Waltheof, refusing to marry Simon de St. Lize, who was one of the Norman followers of William, was disinherited of her estate; and St. Lize marrying Maud, her daughter, succeeded to the possession of the castle at Huntingdon. On his death, Maud married David King of Scotland, son of Malcolm, (who slew Macbeth,) and by Henry 1st was created Earl of Huntingdon. His successor, Stephen de Blois, gave him the castle, with considerable possessions in this county, "for an augmentation of his estate," and it is recorded that he enlarged the castle<sup>7</sup> "with many works." In the reign of Henry the 2d it became a retreat for the disaffected and seditious, and its occupation a subject of constant dispute between the St. Lizes and the Scots; and on July the 21st, 1174, Henry having besieged the castle, it was surrendered to him by the Scots, and in 1175, by his order, dismantled and almost levelled<sup>8</sup> with the ground, as well as most of the castles throughout the country, which had been in the hands of the rebel barons.—We will pursue the enquiry somewhat farther. Brayley, who has

<sup>7</sup> David Scotus, cui, ut antiquus habet historicus, "Stephanus Rex Burgum Huntingdon in augmentum dederat," multis operibus adauxit.—*Camden's Brit.* p. 395, ed. 1590.

Towns were then generally held of some castle or honour.

<sup>8</sup> In Speed's time (the reign of James the First) the ruins of the castle and its foundations might be traced, but now not a vestige of either remains.

been before alluded to, describes the site of the castle-hills and grounds adjacent in these words: "On the south it is bounded by the river, from which it rises very abruptly to a considerable height, and from its summit commands a fine view over a great expanse of country, particularly to the south; the prospect towards the north must also have been formerly very extensive, but is now impeded by the houses of the town. The outer ramparts inclose an area of several acres, of a square form, with the angles rounded off, and the whole was environed by a deep ditch; the banks on the south and south-east are still very bold; the principal entrance was on the east side. Not any vestiges of buildings now remain, but the foundations may in various places be traced from the unevenness of the surface: the artificial mount, on which most probably stood the keep of the castle, was surrounded by a ditch. Towards the west, the high ground continues for some distance; but on the north and east it more quickly declines." This reads very imposing and very decisive; but if Mr. Brayley had personally inspected the site, he would have discovered, that what he calls the outer ramparts, inclosing an area of several acres of a square form, are very little more or less than old and now abandoned gravel and clay pits, part of which have actually been worked within the memory of some of the present inhabitants of Huntingdon. The high ground at the south boundary

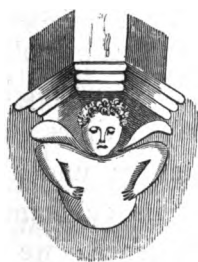
continuing some distance towards the west, gradually declining towards the north, and more quickly so towards the east, is in a great measure the mere natural formation of the place, rendered somewhat more irregular by the artificial works thrown up during the contentions between the Mercians and the Danes, and subsequently those of the St. Lizes and the Scots ; but the smaller square occupied by the castle-hills, carries, by its aspect, immediate conviction of its having been occupied by an Anglo-Norman castle. It is of the dimensions which would have been required for such occupation ; situated on an eminence ; in the south has a river running at its base ; and in the west, north, and east, surrounded by a deep fosse. It is at that convenient distance from the public road, the Ermin-street, that would allow of the barbican or outwork for defending the great gate or principal entrance of the castle. The fortifications for the defence of this entrance were undoubtedly strong, from the high artificial mounts on which its protecting towers stood. The balleum, or area within, was well proportioned to the size of the establishment ; and the elevation on which the chief tower or keep stood for the residence of the Governor, and security of the fortress, was considerable and of ample extent.

In thus fixing the Roman station, Durolipons, at Godmanchester, and entering into this minute investigation of the subject, the strictest impar-

tiality has been observed; not the distortion of an historical fact attempted, on the principle of the old couplet—

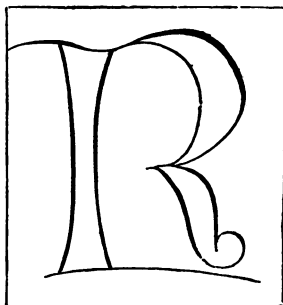
If you'd praise Lesbia's feature,  
Call her sister ugly creature—

for the antiquity of Huntingdon, the baronial intrigues, the sacred institutions, and the charitable foundations of olden time, together with, though last here recorded, not least amongst its memorabilia, its having been the birth-place of Oliver Cromwell, give it to the Historian, the Antiquarian, and the Politician, an interest that renders the aid of borrowed fame unnecessary to pourtray it illustrious in the pages of the Topographer.





## CHAPTER III.

GODMANCHESTER A DANISH ENCAMPMENT,  
A. D. 880.

EVERTING to the period of History when the Saxons, after subduing the Britons, and taking possession of the kingdom, were harassed and plundered by the Danes;<sup>a</sup> as our object is not to present an historical disserta-

tion on those turbulent times, but merely to consider the circumstances under which Godmanchester for ever lost its old name, by becoming a Danish station of defence; we shall restrict our comments to those events in which the Danish leader, Guthrum,<sup>b</sup> was a prominent and for a time the principal character. In order to form a just estimate of his rank and prowess, and the impor-

<sup>a</sup> See page 15.

<sup>b</sup> He has been variously called Guthrum, Guthmun, Gytrum, Gurmum, Gorman, &c.

tance of those events, we must take a brief survey of the state of England A. D. 875. The dominions of Alfred were then completely overrun by the Danes, with the exception of the kingdom of the West Saxons, and almost in subjection to them, when a fresh inundation of those pirates,<sup>c</sup> brought hither by Guthrum, Oscitel, and Amund, entered the kingdom, and joined their countrymen under Hunga and Hubba, at their chief station at Repton in Derbyshire. Plans having been concerted for communication and co-operation, they divided their forces into numerous hordes ;<sup>d</sup> one portion took possession of Northumberland, commanded by a chieftain named Haldene ;<sup>e</sup> another, headed by Guthrum, Oscitel, and Amund, established their camp at Cambridge ; from whence they proceeded in the following year to Wereham, in Dorsetshire, the centre of Alfred's dominions. The vigilance and intrepidity of Alfred, and the success of his arms, soon reduced them to great extremities,<sup>f</sup> and they gladly availed themselves of a truce he offered them to leave the kingdom, first swearing by the reliques of Christian saints to make no future irruptions on the country. The Saxons were deceived by this treaty into a fatal security, and the Danish forces treacherously fell upon Alfred's army, which they entirely discomfited, and, marching westward,

<sup>c</sup> Hen. Hunt. lib. v.    <sup>d</sup> Saxon Chron. p. 83, and Asser, p. 8.

<sup>e</sup> Hen. Hunt. lib. v.    <sup>f</sup> Saxon Chron. p. 83.

took possession of Exeter. The confidence of the Saxons in the discretion and valor of Alfred was unabated ; new supplies of men were continually raised for his assistance : in one year he fought no less than eight successful battles with the Danes, and by the consequent slaughter<sup>g</sup> almost effected their annihilation, when he offered to the remainder proposals of peace, with stipulations that they might colonize in some part of England on submitting to his government, but that no more of their countrymen should be admitted into his territories.<sup>h</sup> Pending the execution of this treaty, Alfred and his Saxon subjects were thrown into consternation by a fresh and more formidable arrival of Danes,<sup>i</sup> who, being joined by their scattered countrymen in England, had surprised Chippenham, in Wiltshire, and taken possession of the surrounding country. Their perfidy, their numbers, and their increasing successes, paralyzed the efforts of the disheartened Saxons, who then believed themselves devoted by heaven to destruction ; their strength was reduced by the continual havoc of their enemies ; their sacrifices of life and property appeared utterly fruitless, and reinforcements of Danes continually pouring upon them, they abandoned themselves to despair.<sup>k</sup>

<sup>g</sup> Asser, p. 8.

<sup>h</sup> Asser ; Hen. Hunt. lib. v.

<sup>i</sup> "Anno Dom. 878, Gutrun tyrannus cum innumerabili Paganorum exersitu Britanniae Anglice insulam undique invasit."—*Cod. MS. in Bibl. Bodl. N. E. E.*—11—18.

<sup>k</sup> Saxon Chron. p. 84.

Some left their habitations and retired into Wales, others embarked for more distant states, whilst those who remained submitted to their overwhelming conquerors, and in self-preservation sank into servile obedience. Alfred, in disguise, sought refuge in a peasant's hut, and became the domestic of a neat-herd, who entrusted him with the care of his cows.

In the solitude of this retirement, the anxious mind of Alfred was not regardless of his future destiny : he observed the riotous lives and relaxed discipline of the Danes, and secretly collecting some few of his still devoted adherents, retired with them into the centre of a bog in Somersetshire,<sup>1</sup> formed by the stagnating waters of the Thone and Parret, where they took up their abode on a small island, of about two acres in extent. On this poor territory, which he called Æthelingey, or the Isle of Nobles, rendered inaccessible by forests and morasses with which it was surrounded, (except by a narrow foot-path in the summer season,) he built and fortified an habitation, from which he made frequent incursions upon the Danes, supporting his followers upon the plunder they obtained, giving them the consolation of revenge by their successes in these occasional skirmishes, and animating their hopes that future conquests would reinstate them in the plenitude of their former power. Hunga and Hubba

<sup>1</sup> Asser, p. 10.

were at this time spreading fire and slaughter through Wales, and having devastated it by plunder and violence, set sail from thence for Devonshire with twenty-three armed transports, and laid siege to the last hold of the Saxons,<sup>m</sup> the castle of Kinwith, near the river Tau. Oddune, Earl of Devonshire, and the Saxons under his command, valiantly resisted their barbarous assailants, and, aware that no quarter would be shewn them in the event of being vanquished, resolved on a desperate attempt at their overthrow, or to force their passage through them to the coast, trusting thereby to escape to the Continent. They suddenly attacked the unguarded Danes before sunrise, put them to rout, and pursued them with tremendous slaughter. Hunga and Hubba were slain in the conflict; Oddune himself killed the latter, and seized the famous Reafen,<sup>n</sup> the enchanted Danish standard, which contained the figure of a raven, inwoven by the three sisters of Hunga and Hubba, with many magical incantations, to ensure their success, so long as they retained its possession.

This successful enterprise of Oddune determined Alfred to re-assemble his subjects in arms; but in order to render his plans and their future efforts more effective, he first entered the enemy's camp in the disguise of a harper, and passing unsuspected through every quarter, so entertained them

<sup>m</sup> Hume, Smollet, Milton.

<sup>n</sup> Brompt. Coll.

with music and facetious humour, that he met with a cordial welcome,<sup>o</sup> and even passed some days familiarly in the tent of Guthrum. Returning to Athelney, he despatched emissaries to the most considerable of his subjects, and summoned them to a rendezvous with his companions in arms at Brixton, on the borders of Selwood Forest.<sup>p</sup> He there represented to them the careless discipline and supineness of the Danes, their contempt of the English, their negligence in foraging, their dissolute wasting of what they procured by rapine and violence; that their own past fatigues and dangers were more tolerable than their present humiliating vassalage: he then urged them to put an end to the insolence and barbarity of their oppressors by a vigorous attack, and, inspiring them with confidence of success, instantly marched to Eddington in Hampshire, where the Danes were encamped, and taking advantage of his recent visit amongst them, directed his assault at their most unguarded quarter. The sudden appearance of an English army, with Alfred at its head, diffused a panic through the camp of Guthrum, which, after having made in its confusion a feeble resistance, was put totally to the rout. Oscitel and Amund, and the majority of the Danes, were slain in the field or their entrenchments; Guthrum, with the comparative few who escaped, for some days de-

<sup>o</sup> William of Malmsbury, lib. ii. cap 10.

<sup>p</sup> Saxon Chron., Asser., Rival, &c.

fended themselves in an adjacent fortification, but, besieged by Alfred, and exhausted by famine, were ultimately compelled to submit unconditionally to their conquerors.<sup>1</sup> Thus, by this decided victory, the Danes were reduced from the tyranny and arrogance of uncontrolled power to the humility of supplicants for mercy, and delivered hostages to Alfred as proofs of the sincerity of their submission. The perfidious violation of all former treaties by these barbarian adventurers induced Alfred to demand, as the basis of a compact between himself and Guthrum, that he, the chieftains of his army, and the whole of his followers, should renounce Paganism, adopt Christianity for their religion, and submit to baptism. These stipulations<sup>r</sup> being com-

<sup>1</sup> Anno Dom. 878.

<sup>r</sup> "Namque eorum Rex Gudrum, quem nostri Gurmundum vocant, cum trigenta proceribus, et omni penè populo baptizatus et in filium à rege Aelfredo susceptus est imposito sibi nomine Ethelstano."—*J. Pike et Willielmi Malmsbur. de gest. Reg. Ang.* lib. ii.

Anno 17 Alfredi. Tunc exercitus tradidit regi obsides et juravit se recessurum a regno suo. Promisit etiam quod Rex eorum Baptizaretur, et factum est. Venit enim Godrun Princeps regum eorum ad Alfredum regè, et baptizatus est. Alfredus verò patrinus eius factus, cum eum secum 12 diebus tenuisset, abeunti multa dedit munera.—*Hen. Hunt. Hist.* lib. v. p. 201.

"Guthrum, whom some named Gurmound, a prince or king amongst these Danes, came to Alvred, and was baptized. King Alvred receyvyng hym at the font-stone, named hym Avelstane, and gave to hym the countrey of East Angle, whyche hee governed (or rather spoyled) by the space of twelue yeares. Dyuers other of the Danishe nobilitie, to the number of thirtie, (as

plied with, Guthrum with thirty of his principal officers and the remainder of his army repaired to Aulre,<sup>a</sup> near Athelney, where they were met by Alfred, who accompanied them to Weadmore,<sup>†</sup> where the chrism was performed. The baptismal ceremony being over, at which Guthrum was received from the font by Alfred, who adopted him as godson, naming him Athelstan, the whole party was entertained with regal hospitality twelve days, and then dismissed with rich presents,<sup>‡</sup> proofs of Alfred's desire to preserve amity with them. The kingdom had already suffered too long from the marauding disposition of the Danes, to allow of this opportunity for reducing them to civilization and good government to escape the high-minded Alfred; therefore, to effect these objects, he immediately entered into a treaty of alliance with Guthrum, giving him

Simon Dunelmensis hathe) came the same tyme in companye of theyr King Guthrum, and were lykewyse baptysed, on whom Kyng Alored also bestowed many riche giftes."—*Holinshed's Chron.* p. 214.

<sup>a</sup> Asser and the Saxon Chronicle say that they were baptized at Aulre, which Mr. Walker thinks is the modern Aulre, an inconsiderable place near Ethelney. Wedmore is about twelve miles from it.

<sup>†</sup> At Wedmore, what was called the chrism, viz. a white linnen cloth was put upon their heads, (which was regarded as a mystic veil,) after they had been baptized at Aulre, that the oyl with which they were anointed might stay on, and which was not taken off for eight days.

<sup>‡</sup> "Cui Rex cum suis omnibus multa et optima cœdificia largiter dedit."—*Asser and Flor. Wig.*



a vice-royalty over East-Anglia and Northumbria. East-Anglia comprehended the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, the Isle of Ely, and that portion of Huntingdonshire which lies south of the river Ouse: and Northumbria—the counties of Lancaster, York, Durham, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Northumberland, and Scotland, to the Fryth of Edinburgh.\* The treaty was entitled—"Fœdus inter Aluredi et Guthrumni," and merely intended to form the basis of a subsequent one. It contained a limitation of their respective kingdoms, and those broad principles of justice and equality hereafter to be observed between the Saxons and the Danes. The second treaty has been called "Fœdus Ædwardi et Guthruni Regum;" which, being a more deliberate ordinance, particularized what was to constitute legal crime, and the penalty or punishment that should attach to it; and provided as well against the irregularities of the Saxons as the licentiousness of the Danes.

The tenor of the articles is to this effect: to forsake heathenness; worship one God, and him alone; to preserve the peace of the church inviolate, and the king's peace unbroken; that if any should renounce Christianity, and promote heathenness, he should be punished with fine, ransom, or confiscation: then follow decrees against misdemeanors in religious men, incest, withholding of tythes; buying, selling, or working on Sundays;

\* Gibson's Camden.

breach of the fasts of the Church, &c. &c.” Some difficulty has occurred, and contradictions in modern writers, respecting the time and nature of this last treaty, from its being entituled “*Fœdus Edwardi et Guthruni* ;” and from Lambard’s translation of them from the Saxon original, in which he calls them Leagues, as if Guthrum had been an absolute monarch, party to a treaty offensive and defensive with a neighbouring potentate ; and from the preamble containing Edward’s confirmation. Spelman<sup>x</sup> at once removes the difficulty with respect to time, by observing, that Guthrum died at least ten years before Edward ascended the throne, and Edward’s confirmation was a mere matter of course, subsequently appended to the deed, the Danes continuing the occupation of their territories under the successors of Guthrum. The then nature of these documents is evident, on the slightest consideration of them. The Danes were entirely subdued by Alfred, and threw themselves upon his clemency, and we are to look upon these instruments as offerings made at the shrine of his country’s welfare, by the mighty founder of the English monarchy to preserve its future peace inviolate, and effect a general consolidation of the interests, powers, and resources of the kingdom. Asser says of the Danes, that they,

<sup>w</sup> These treaties are still extant, and published in the “*Leges Anglo-Saxonicae Ecclesiasticae et Civiles cum Codd. MSS.*” p. 47 and 51. *David Wilkins, Lond.* fol. 1729.

<sup>x</sup> Spelman’s *Vita Ælfredi*.

according to their promise, came and swore to him, but says not one single word of Alfred's swearing to them. William of Malmsbury<sup>7</sup> observes, that these kingdoms were given by Alfred to Guthrum, that he might the rather hold them by fealty than piratically; Smollet,<sup>2</sup> that he held them as a feudatory prince; and Ingulph,<sup>a</sup> in speaking of the Abbey of Croyland, which was in the East Angles, observes, that the Abbot considered more fealty due from him to Alfred than to Guthrum; to which may be added, that the Danes were recently in possession of nearly the whole kingdom, and consequently the fact of Guthrum's becoming a party to such treaties was a proof of his vassalage to Alfred. During these arrangements the Danish encampment was at Chippenham; and on the completion of them, the Danes went to Cirencester in Gloucestershire, where they passed the year without much devastation of that neighbourhood.

From the apparent tardiness of Guthrum in taking possession of the East Angles, a fresh inun-

<sup>7</sup> *Data sunt ei prouinciæ Orientalium Anglorum et Northanimbriorum, ut eas sub fidelitatæ regis fouerit, iure hereditario, quas peruaserat latrocinio.*—*Will. Malms. de gest. reg. Angt.*

<sup>2</sup> "They halted some time at Cirencester; from thence they marched into the kingdom of the East Angles, which, with the county of Essex, was allotted for their habitation, and Guthrum was permitted to govern it as a feudatory prince. Alfred supplied this prince with a short code of laws for the government of his subjects," &c.—*Smoll. Hist. Eng.* 4to. 1759.

<sup>a</sup> Ingulphi Hist.

dation of Danes made a descent on the coast, and passing up the Thames wintered at Fulham ; but finding Guthrum determined to foster his new alliance with Alfred, in the spring of the year they set sail with their leader, Hastings,<sup>b</sup> for Flanders, and landing at Ghent, commenced their usual system of barbarity and plunder.

In the year 880<sup>c</sup> Guthrum took possession of the East Angles, divided and distributed his kingdom amongst those of his followers who had been converted to Christianity, whilst the residue of the Danes crossed the sea and joined their piratical countrymen in Flanders.

It was at this period that a Danish settlement was made at Godmanchester, as evinced by the quotation of Camden : “ Gormonis a Castri nomen habit,” *the town from Gorman’s camp first took its name*; and there is to this day a place on the Belisle estate in Godmanchester, known by the name of Gorman’s Pond. Thus the Durolipons of the Romans became the Gormon-castricia of the Danes, and was admirably situated for one of their most important encampments; on the south and

<sup>b</sup> “ Cœteri ex Danis qui Christiani esse recusassent, cum Hastings mare transfretarent, ubi, quæ mala fecerunt, indiginæ norunt.”—*Wm. Malmsb.*

<sup>c</sup> The Saxon Chronicle dates their occupation of East Anglia in 879. The MS. Chronicle places it, like Asser, in 880.—*Vide Cot. Lib. b. 4, p. 35.* See also *Turner’s History of the Anglo Saxons*, 4to. vol. i. p. 265.

south-east sheltered and protected by high hills, from whence rapid descents could be made in the event of molestation; on the west, north, and north-west, defended by and commanding the river Ouse, which separated it from the kingdom of Mercia; in addition to which, it here formed a key to the East Angles, this division of which was at that time almost a continued forest.<sup>d</sup> Though Guthrum has been accused\* of corresponding with and sheltering his barbaric countrymen, and receiving them in his harbours from the German Ocean, to the annoyance of Alfred, yet the integrity of his conduct appears never to have been questioned by that

<sup>d</sup> "Huntingdonshire," says Leland, "in old time, was much more woody than it is now, and the dere resortid to the fennes: it is full long sins it was deforestid."—*Itin.* vol. iv. p. 48. Sir Robert Cotton refers the period of disforested this county to the reign of Edward 1st, who, in his 29th year, confirmed the great charter granted by Henry 3d, when no more was left forest than the demesnes still retained in the king's hands.—Camden observes of this county, "the inhabitants say it was once covered with woods; and it appears to have been a forest till Henry 2d, in the beginning of his reign, disforested the whole, as set forth by an old perambulation, 'except Waybridge, Sapple, and Herthei, which were the lord's woods and remain forest.'"—*Gough's Camden*, vol. ii. p. 155.

<sup>e</sup> Malmsbury quaintly observes of Guthrum—"Verum quoniam non mutabit æthiops pellem suam, datas ille terras tyrannico fastu undecim annis proterans duodecimo vitam finiuit: posteris quoq: perfidiæ successionem transmittens, donec a nepote istius Elfredi Athelstano subiugati, regem unum Angliæ fieri vel inuiti concesserint sicut hic dies invenit."—*De Gestis Reg. Ang.* lib. 2. p. 24.

monarch, as he kept quiet possession of the East-Angles until his death, which, according to Florence of Worcester, occurred in 890,<sup>f</sup> and the Saxon Chronicles, 891,<sup>g</sup> after a reign of twelve years. He was buried at Hadley in Suffolk, and succeeded in his sovereignty by Eohric,<sup>h</sup> who revolted and leagued with Hastings on his re-invasion of the kingdom, A. D. 893, but who was soon repulsed, and his turbulent coadjutors subdued. In consequence of this rebellion, Eohric, with the East Anglian and Northumbrian Danes, was required, in 894, to renew their oaths of fealty, and deliver hostages to Edward. The Danish occupation of the East-Angles,<sup>i</sup> after the death of Guthrum, led to continual skirmishes and irruptions between them and the Mercians, whose kingdom they ultimately subdued, when doubtless Godmanchester, a frontier town, was a place of considerable importance in strength and extent; but from the time of the revolt of the East-Anglian

<sup>f</sup> Flor. Wor. p. 328.

Ingulph says the same—"Anno Regni Ælfredi 18 quæ est Christo 890 enim obiisse dicit."

<sup>g</sup> So also Brompton in Chronico—"Hoc anno 891, obiisse dicit;" and Hen. Hunt. "Alfredi Regis Anno 19 (i. e. 891) Godrun Rex Dacus qui fuit filiulus Alfredi Regis, et regnavit in Est-Angle, luce demptu sest." lib. v.

<sup>h</sup> "Postea in Orientali Saxonia, Guthrum Rex Danus regnavit annis duodecim tempore Regis Alfredi; Guthrum habuit successorem æque Dauma nomine Eohric."—*Wm. Malm.* lib. 1. fol. 14.

<sup>i</sup> Hume, vol. i. p. 61, 4to. 1762.

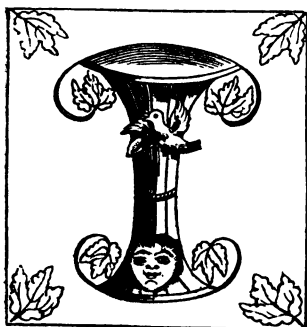
and Mercian Danes in favor of Ethelwald, and their subjection to Edward in 917,<sup>\*</sup> no local incidents are on record requiring our consideration, until the compilation of Domesday-book, in the reign of William the Conqueror.

<sup>\*</sup> Vide page 32.



## CHAPTER IV.

## RECORD OF DOMESDAY A.D. 1086.



IN our fac-simile and illustration of the following extract from the *Rowle of Winchester*,<sup>a</sup> we commence our series of ancient documents relative to Godmanchester.

A survey of the kingdom was taken by Alfred about the year 900, which, though now lost, was extant at Winchester when William the Conqueror assumed the government of the empire, and that

<sup>a</sup> Anciently so called from being kept in the church at Westminster; sometimes from the same cause—*Liber domus-dei*: abbreviated *Domesday-book*: *Liber Judiciarius*: *Rotulus Wintoniæ*: *Scriptura Thesauri Regis*: *Liber de Wintonia*: *Liber Regis Censualis Angliæ*: *Angliæ Notitia et Lustratio*, &c.

“Iste *Rotulus* vocatus est *ROTULUS WINTONIÆ*, et ab Anglicis pro sua generalitate *Domesday* cognominatur. Talem *Rotulum* ..... ediderat quondam Alfredus qui quidem *Rotulus Wintoniæ* vocatus est quia deponeretur apud Wintoniam conservandus que civitas caput West Saxonici regni sibi hereditarii.



survey probably suggested to the Norman the design of accurately ascertaining the extent of his manorial and other rights. The inestimable compilation, called *Domesday Book*, deposited in the Chapter House, Westminster, was completed in 1086, and is one of the most ancient records in the kingdom. It was begun, with the advice of Parliament, in the year 1080, when Commissioners were sent through the kingdom, who summoned and empannelled juries in the several hundreds of every county, with some few exceptions,<sup>b</sup> out of all orders of freemen, from barons to the smallest farmers; who returned upon oath, by verdict or presentment, the value, tenure, and services of the land: their inquests were sent to Winchester, and subsequently methodised and formed into the record we call *Domesday Book*. The name is of Saxon origin, and signifies the Book of Judicial Verdict. Notwithstanding the assertion of Milner,<sup>c</sup> on the autho-

In illo vero Wintoniæ sic maxime vocato.....descripti sunt, non tantum, totius terræ commitatus, &c. sed quot carucatæ, terræ," &c.—*Ingulph's Hist. of Croyland*.

Ingulph was abbot of Croyland, and wrote the history of that abbey, from its foundation in 664 to 1091. He was born in London A. D. 1030, educated at Westminster School and at Oxford, and died A. D. 1109.

<sup>b</sup> The chief omissions are from the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland, which are supposed to have been in a state too turbulent to have allowed the inquisitions to have been accurately made.

<sup>c</sup> History of Winchester, by the Rev. John Milner, 2 vols. 4to.

city of Rudborne,<sup>d</sup> “ that the most oppressive of all the Conqueror’s acts, and that which gave the greatest uneasiness to the nation at large, was the severe inquisition which he made in the year 1085, concerning the extent and value of the whole landed property of the kingdom, for the purpose of taxing it at his own discretion :” but little injustice has been complained of in the compiling and digesting of this national record, so comprehensive and interesting in its nature; a work so important to the times and posterity, that it at once became the fiat to establish the king’s and the subjects’ rights, preserving the latter from farther encroachments of the crown, and giving to the former an easy and accurate method of ascertaining the land revenue of the kingdom. Even to this day, what manors are *ancient demesne*<sup>e</sup> and what not, are decided by Domesday alone. The description in most of the manors observes a similar order to that for Godmanchester. How many hides or carucates of land were gelded<sup>f</sup> or taxed; whose it was in the time of Edward the Confessor; what and how

<sup>d</sup> “Vocatus est (iste magnus liber) Domysday, quia nulli parcit, sicut nec magnus dies judicii.”—*Rudborne’s Chronicle*. Thomas Rudborne was promoted in 1433 by Henry 5th to the see of St. David’s, and died in 1442. He built the tower and chapel of Merton College, as monuments of his taste, munificence, and piety.

<sup>e</sup> Burrow’s Reports, 2d vol. p. 1048.

<sup>f</sup> A tax of six shillings was imposed on every plough-land, to defray the expences of compiling the work.

much arable land, meadow, wood, and pasture there was ; how much in demesne, how much in tenancy, and what number of ploughs it would keep ; what mills, fisheries, freemen, bordars, villains, &c. ; what churches, and how many priests ; and what the whole was let at in the time of King Edward. In 1783, under the auspices of George the 3d, two volumes of this important work were printed in folio, in a peculiar type, cast expressly for the occasion, for the use of the Members of both Houses of Parliament and the public libraries ; and after the issue of the commission for the preservation of the public records, a third volume, consisting of indexes, was printed in 1816 ;<sup>a</sup> and in the same year was published a fourth, or supplemental volume.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> To this volume an Historical Account of the Survey was prefixed by Henry Ellis, Esq. F.R.S. and Sec. S.A.

<sup>b</sup> The original Domesday is written in two volumes. The first a folio, containing 382 double pages of vellum, in a small but plain character, each page having a double column. Some of the capital letters and principal passages are touched with red ink, and some have strokes of red ink run across them, as if scratched out, but the design was to mark such passages with more particular notice. This volume contains the description of thirty-one counties. At the beginning of each county there is a catalogue of the capital lords or great landowners who possessed any thing in it, beginning with the king, then naming others according to their rank or dignity. The second is a quarto volume, written in 450 double pages of vellum, but in a single column, and in a large and very fair character. It contains the counties of Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk.—*Grose*.

Robert of Gloucester, the oldest of our English poets, who is quoted with great admiration by Camden, flourished in the 12th century, and died at an advanced age, in the commencement of King John's reign, thus describes Domesday Book :

The King William, vor to wite the worth of his lond  
Let enqueri stretlich thoru all Engeland,  
Hou moni plou-lond, and hou moni hiden also,  
Were in euerich sire, and wat hij were wurth yereto :  
And the rents of each toun, and of the waters echone  
The wurth, and of woods eke ; that there lieued none,  
But that he wist wat hij were wurth of all Engeland,  
And wite all clene, that wurth thereof ich understond,  
And let it write clene inou, and that scrit dude iwis ;  
In the Tresorie at Westminstr, there it yut is,  
So that vre Kings suth, when by ransome toke,  
Yrede wat folc might give, hij fond there in yor boke.

In 1788, appeared Kelham's " Domesday Book Illustrated;"<sup>1</sup> containing an explanation of the terms and abbreviations, with translations and notes on the difficult passages of that ancient record, to which work we are largely indebted for the following comments on that portion of it relative to Godmanchester.

<sup>1</sup> By Robert Kelham, of Lincoln's Inn, Author of the Norman Dictionary. London, 8vo. (now very scarce.)

*Fac-simile<sup>k</sup>—from Domesday.*

HUNTEBSCIRE.  
*In le huntebescire.*

⁊ In Godmancestre t̃ rex Edw<sup>o</sup> xiiij hid oðgld.  
 rra lviij. car þi m̃ u car indnio regis. in u h̃it h̃u<sup>o</sup> tre  
 7 q̃t xx uill<sup>o</sup> h̃it xx uij car þi p̃br 7 eccl̃a 7 iii mo/ni  
 c. sol. 8 7 c/x ac p̃t. 7 l ac silue past<sup>o</sup> de pastura xx sot  
 de p̃tis lxx sol T.R.E wat xl. lib m̃ sinut ad numeru

### HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

#### HUNDRED OF LEIGHTONSTONE.

A Manor. In Godmanchester King Edward had fourteen Hides at Geld. In the said Manor are 57 Carucates of Land—two Carucates in demesne of the King.—In two other Hides of this Land Eighty Villans and Sixteen Bordars have twenty-four Ploughs. There are also a Priest, a Church, and three Mills. A hundred Solidates (of Plough Land) and 160 Acres of Meadow and 50 Acres of Woodland-pasture. Twenty Solidates of Pasture. Seventy Solidates of Meadow.

In the time of King Edward valued at Forty Pounds, and now in like manner.

⁊ | A Manor.

<sup>k</sup> For the above Fac-simile, taken by the Author from page 203, vol. i. of the original, we are indebted to the polite attention of J. Caley, Esq. Keeper of the Records in the Augmentation Office, and in the Chapter House at Westminster.

“ King Edward had fourteen Hides at Geld.”

Gld or Geldage was a Land Tax—called Danegeld<sup>1</sup> from being first imposed by King Ethelred about the year 991 to raise a tribute to the Danes, to purchase their forbearance on threatened invasions; it subsequently became established as an annual Tax of 2 Ss. on every hide of Land in the Kingdom.<sup>m</sup> Sir H. Spelman estimates the number of Hides in England at 243,600—which, rated at Two Shillings per Hide, would raise an Annual Revenue of £24,360. The income from Danegeld was far less than this estimate—as the demesne lands of the King, though measured and returned like other lands, did not pay this Tax—nor those of Churchmen or Religious Houses. The Demesnes of Lords and Barons were also exempt, the tenure of their lands being by military service.<sup>n</sup> In the year 1051 Edward remitted the Tax altogether.

“ In the said manor are fifty-seven Carucates of Land.”

Car’—or Carucata is a Plough land, or as much land as can be tilled with one plough and horses or beasts in a year; therefore the Carucate<sup>o</sup> varied in different counties, according to the nature of the soil and the customs of husbandry. Dufresne states, that in the time of Richard the First, sixty Acres appear to have made a Caracate, and that for some purposes eighty or a hundred were

<sup>1</sup> Webb’s Account of Danegeld, p. 2.

<sup>m</sup> Spelman in Glossar, p. 292.

<sup>n</sup> How often Danegeld had been collected, and the several sums it raised.—*Vide Morant’s Essex*, vol. i. p. 229.

<sup>o</sup> Selden’s Tit. Hon. p. 622.

required. When Hide and Carucate<sup>p</sup> are both named, the latter is supposed to refer to about six Acres.

“ Two Carucates in demesne of the King.”

In *dñio Regis*—in *dominio Regis*. The Kings demesne<sup>q</sup> or *Terra Regis* consisted of such Manors as belonged to the Crown or the King individually; and 1422 Manors or Lordships were in Domesday Book appropriated to the Crown, besides quit-rents paid out of other manors, lands or farms. If lands are there described as being *terra Regis*, or it is said *Rex habet* the lands in consideration, they are determined to be ancient demesne; but if it is recorded that they belonged to a private Lord or subject at the time of the survey, they are considered to have been the property of those to whom they are assigned, and not—in *dñio Regis*. *Terra Regis*<sup>r</sup> is supposed to comprehend only lands which were in the actual possession of Edward the Confessor—the alienation of which was deemed impious, but to which we may add the forfeited estates of those who opposed William at the battle of Hastings, and those of such of the Barons and others who afterwards forsook him, and with which he subsequently rewarded his Norman followers, who held them of him subject to stipulated services.

“ In two other Hides of this Land”

Hide—or Hida.<sup>s</sup> The Hide was the measure of land in the Confessor's Reign, and the Carucate that to which it was reduced by the Conqueror's new standard. When the Kingdom was first divided into Hides, each Hide contained, according to Dugdale, 100 Acres, or 120 Acres of

<sup>p</sup> Agard.

<sup>r</sup> Brady on Boroughs, p. 82.

<sup>q</sup> Pegge's Curialia.

<sup>s</sup> Hutch. Disc. p. 7.

present English measure<sup>†</sup>—but the just quantity of a Hide does not appear in Domesday, and perhaps varied in every County, consequently the dimensions<sup>u</sup> there specified cannot be reduced to any probable certainty.

“ Eighty Villans—or Villeins.”

Uitli or Villani—Villeins—from Villa a country farm. They held small portions of land for the sustenance of themselves and families at the mere will of the Lord, by base service or arbitrary fine. The Villeins were superior to the Servi, though occasionally employed in servile occupations, and were either *regardant*—that is, annexed to the Manor or Land—or in *gross*, and annexed to the person of the Lord, and transferable by deed from one to another. In all the counties in England the far greater part of the land was occupied by Villeins; Husbandmen or Sockmen, not removable at pleasure, were very few in comparison with them. The continual wars of the Heptarchy have been assigned as the cause of this immense and disproportionate number of Vassals. Prisoners taken in war, and carried off by petty Princes or Lords, were reduced to slavery. The grant of the Manor of Godmanchester in fee-farm to the Men of Godmanchester, by King John, in 1213, emancipated it from villenage, and according to an Inquest held in the 7th of Edward the First, A. D. 1281, it was answered, “ that they are free sokemen, and that there is not a Bondman<sup>v</sup> amongst them.”

The contentions between the Houses of York and Lan-

<sup>†</sup> Seld. Tit. Hon. p. 622.

<sup>u</sup> Agard from this cause states, “ that he could not reduce the question of dimension of land into any certainty.”—*App. to Reg. Hon. Rich.* p. 8.

<sup>v</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 2, pars. c. and i.



caster,<sup>w</sup> which divided the kingdom into two factions; almost gave the finishing stroke to servitude, every Lord being obliged, for his own security, to espouse the interests of one of the contending parties, and to support it with all his force. Villeins were then emancipated in immense numbers, in order to become soldiers. By the customs of Godmanchester, as antient demesne, the Tenants could not alienate to Bondsmen or Strangers;<sup>x</sup> and in 1498, John Foster and Richard Foster, on their application to be admitted Tenants, being reputed Villeins, were obliged to disprove the allegation before they were so admitted.

Court holdyn at Godmynches<sup>?</sup> the Thursday next befor<sup>9</sup> the feste of Synt Thom<sup>?</sup> Apli A<sup>o</sup> Rgni henr<sup>9</sup> vij—xiii<sup>j</sup>°. To this Court cam<sup>?</sup> John Foster and Rychar<sup>9</sup> Foster, and delyvd to Willm Arwait and John Laxton bayliffs this lett foloyng.

Ryght welbeloued frendis I recommaunde me to you, and wher<sup>9</sup> as now of late it hathe ben seyde and surmysed bi di<sup>?</sup>s psons that Rychard fost<sup>?</sup> and John Fost<sup>?</sup> schulde be villens and bondmen of blode to me belongyng to myn Ma<sup>n</sup>s of hamton and wynwyke to ther gret noys and detryment and for as myche as it is medefull to schewe the truthe of a<sup>n</sup>y dowte I ascerteyn you and e<sup>v</sup>y of you of very truthe that the seyde Rychard Foster and John Foster bene free borne and of fre condicōne and not bonde to me, nor to no Ma<sup>n</sup> that I have w<sup>t</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> Reine of Yngland that I knowth,—god who have yow in his moste assured kepyng, gevyn undyr myn Synet and Synemanuell at Bokyngham Castell the xvi<sup>th</sup> day of Decembyr.

By Sy Willm Knyvett.

<sup>w</sup> Sullivan's Lecture.

<sup>x</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 3.

Sir Thomas Smyth<sup>v</sup> never knew any *Villein in gross* in the whole realm, and the few *Villeins regardant* in his time, were such only as belonged to Bishops, Monasteries, or Ecclesiastical Corporations in the preceding times of Popery. Tenure in villenage<sup>a</sup> was finally abolished by the 12th Charles 2d, cap. 24, at which time there was scarcely a pure Villein in the kingdom.

“ Sixteen Bordars ”

Bord—bordarii—or Bordars, were distinct from the Villein,<sup>a</sup> and of less servile condition<sup>b</sup>—they possessed bords or cottages on the outskirts of manors and small allotments of land. In some counties they furnished provisions<sup>c</sup> and poultry to the Lord’s table, in others did service by grinding,<sup>d</sup> thrashing, drawing water, cutting wood, &c.

“ Have twenty-four Ploughs.”

Car-caruca or Ploughs.—Car. following Villani or Bordarii, signifies the number of Ploughs<sup>e</sup> they kept, and not the quantity of land they held.

“ A Church—a Priest.”

Ibi p̄br 7 eccl̄a.—Wherever we find a Priest mentioned in Domesday, we may conclude there was a Church,<sup>f</sup> but in the instance of Godmanchester, the Church is also expressly recorded.

<sup>v</sup> Secretary to Edward the Sixth, 1553.

<sup>a</sup> Blackstone.

<sup>a</sup> Cowel.

<sup>b</sup> Morant’s Essex, vol. i. p. 27.

<sup>c</sup> Blomef. Norfolk, vol. iii. p. 518.

<sup>d</sup> Howard, p. 204, and Brady’s Pref. p. 56.

<sup>e</sup> Nash’s Worcester, and Brady, 56. <sup>f</sup> Nash’s Worcester, p. 9.

“ And Three Mills.”

Tres Molini.—The three manorial mills here set forth, prove that the mills of Godmanchester are no modern innovation on the stream—unlike those of Hemingford and Houghton—as will be more enlarged upon in our Chapter on Navigation and Drainage.

“ A hundred Solidates (of Plough Land)”

The word *Terræ* is here distinctly understood. It evidently meant arable land, in contradistinction to meadow and wood land. *Solidata*—were shillings, but the Norman shilling weighed a little more than three of our modern shillings :<sup>s</sup> so that the Norman pound, consisting of twenty of such shillings, was worth £3 2s. of our present money.

“ 70 Acres of Meadow.”

*Aċ* or Acres.—The same uncertainty of measure here again occurs ; for in the Domesday Survey, some acres have sixteen, some eighteen, and others twenty feet to the perch.

“ In the time of King Edward valued at forty pounds, now in like manner.”

T. R. E. *uał xl. liċ*.—This was the rent of the land paid annually by the several occupiers or tenants, to the King's Collector : the *ad numerū* expresses that it was not necessarily paid in coined money, but by number or tale, which was in uncoined pieces.

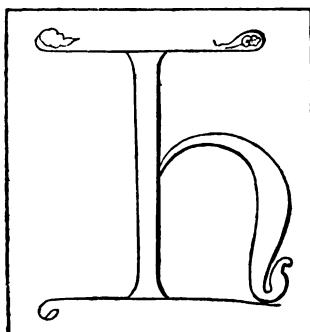
<sup>s</sup> Rud. Gloucester. p. 80.

This short explanatory Chapter of the Domesday Record may appear somewhat prolix, but is essential to the integrity of our work, which proposes to illustrate all that is either interesting or useful to be known, as well regarding its antient as modern History.



## CHAPTER V.

## MUNICIPAL HISTORY TO A. D. 1213.



OW various have been the names by which the town of Godmanchester has been called ! Duro-lipons by the Romans—Gormoncastria by the Danes—and since then, amongst others, Gumicester, Gumicestria,

Guthmuncester, Gurmuncester, Gormoncester, &c.; and it would be difficult to ascertain when that of Godmanchester was first applied to it. Changes in orthography and pronunciation are continually taking place, and the Norman Conquest<sup>a</sup> was a great epoch for such changes ; the c was then softened down into ch, as in bec, bech ; ic, ich ; cild, child ; cester, chester ; but all corporation records still continue to be headed Gumecester *alias* Godmanchester.

<sup>a</sup> Watson.

That Godmanchester was, at a very early era, not only a regularly organized but well populated town, may be stated on good authorities. Leland<sup>b</sup> describes it to have been a town of great note, "as appears from the foundations and coins that are found there;"<sup>c</sup> and adds, "that large bones have been here exhumed beyond the stature of men," in the times in which he lived: that "it was divided merely by the river Ouze from Huntingdon, from whence it is conjectured that Huntingdon was formerly a part of Godmanchester." Henry of Huntingdon<sup>d</sup> calls it "a not unpleasant town, and formerly a noble city," which is an important admission by that learned Monk, for when (and long before) he wrote, Huntingdon was the capital of the province, and had its own honour, with manors dependent upon it. The survey of Domesday gives

<sup>b</sup> "Gumicester, vulgo Godmanchester. Gumecester olim opp. magni nominis, ut apparet, ex fundamentis et numismatibus erutis. Eruuntur etiam et ossa, sed majora quam habeant hujus ætatis homines. Usa tantum dividit hoc opp. ab Huntingduno. Unde conjectura est Huntingdunum antiquitus partem fuisse Gumicestriæ."—*Lelandi Coll.*

<sup>c</sup> Emi ibidem à quodam sacrificulo numismata, inter quæ unum erat C. Antii prælonga cesarie qualem Romani habebant ante notos tonsores.—*Lelandi Coll.* pars. 3. page 13.

<sup>d</sup> Henry of Huntingdon was a monkish historian, (patronized by the Bishops of Lincoln,) and Archdeacon of Huntingdon. He flourished in the 12th century, and wrote a Chronicle of England down to the year 1154. His words are—

"Nobilis quondam urbis, nunc verò villæ non inamabilia."

but little information as to the state of the town, compared with modern times; nor do we find much of interest on record, regarding its Municipal History, prior to the reign of King John.

As *antient demesne* it was part of the hereditary possessions of the crown, and consequently held in tenancy of it; but in the reign of that monarch, not only the Great Charter of Liberty called Magna Charta, but many important concessions, were obtained from the crown by the people, and amongst others that of fixing a permanent rent for the King's tenants, who were thus admitted to denizenship, and which, instead of being levied as formerly by the King's officers in products of husbandry, or by an arbitrary money tax, was to be collected amongst the tenants themselves, and paid at stated periods. In order to simplify this interesting subject, we must here consider the origin of fee-farm rents, and the tenure and customs of Antient Demesne.

“ Antient Demesne<sup>e</sup> consists of those lands or manors which, though now perhaps granted out to private subjects, were actually in the hands of the crown in the time of Edward the Confessor or William the Conqueror, and so appear to have been by the great survey of the Exchequer called Domesday Book. The tenants of these lands of the crown were not all of the same order or degree. Some

<sup>e</sup> Blackstone's Com. by Archbold, b. 2, c. 6.

of them, as Britton testifies, continued for a long time pure and absolute villeins, dependent on the will of the Lord ; and those who have succeeded them in their tenures now differ from common copyholders in only a few points. Others were in a great measure enfranchised by royal favour : being only bound in respect of their lands to perform some of the better sort of villein services, but those determinate and certain ; as, to plough the King's land for so many days, to supply his court with such a quantity of provisions, or other stated services : all of which are now changed into pecuniary rents : and in consideration thereof, they had many immunities and privileges granted to them ; as, to try the right of their property in a peculiar court of their own, called a Court of Antient Demesne, by a peculiar process denominated *A Writ of Right Close* ; not to pay tolls or taxes ; not to contribute to the expenses of knights of the shire ; not to be put on juries ; and the like.

“ Tenants in antient demesne, though their tenure be absolutely copyhold, yet have an interest equivalent to a freehold ; for notwithstanding their services were of a base and villenous original, yet the tenants were esteemed in all other respects to be highly privileged villeins ; and especially that their services were fixed and determinate, and that they could not be compelled (like pure villeins) to relinquish these tenements at the Lord's will, or to hold them against their own : ‘ *et ideo,*’ says Brac-



ton, ‘*dicuntur liberi.*’ Britton also, from such their freedom, calls them absolutely *sokemans*,<sup>f</sup> and their tenure *sokemanries*; which he describes to be lands and tenements which are not held by knight-service, nor by grand serjeanty, nor by petit but by simple services, being as it were lands enfranchised by the King or his predecessors from their antient demesne. The same name is also given them in Fleta.

“ Lands holden by this tenure are, therefore, a species of copyhold; and as such preserved and exempted from the operation of the statute of Charles 2d.<sup>g</sup> Yet they differ from common copyholds principally in the privileges before mentioned, as also they differ from freeholds by one especial mark and tincture of villenage noted by Bracton, and remaining to this day—viz. that they cannot be conveyed from man to man by the general common law conveyances of feoffment, and the rest, but must pass by surrender to the lord or his steward, in the manner of common copyholds: yet with this distinction, that in the admission to these lands in antient demesne, it is not used to say, ‘*to hold at the will of the lord,*’ in their copies, but only, ‘*to hold according to the custom of the manor.*’ ”

This tenure of antient demesne is the tenure of

<sup>f</sup> To an Inquest in 1281 they answer, that they are free Sockmen. Vide Appendix, No. 2, c.

<sup>g</sup> 12th Charles 2d, cap. 24, wherein most antient tenures are reduced to free socage.

Godmanchester, and described by Bracton sometimes under the name of *privileged villenage*, and sometimes of *villein socage* : either of which appellation, he tells us, will apply to the tenants of lands which have been held of the Kings of England from the Conquest downwards, and that *they do services, but which are certain, and defined*; (“*faciunt servitia, sed certa et determinata* ;”) and, moreover, that they cannot aliene or transfer their tenements by grant or feoffment, any more than pure villeins can, but must surrender them to the Lord or his Steward, to be again granted out and held in villenage. Sir William Blackstone says, that the lands he thus describes are no other than an exalted species of copyhold, viz. the tenure in antient demesne, to which, as partaking of the baseness of villenage in the nature of its services, and the freedom of socage in their certainty, he has given a name compounded of both, and calls it *Villanum Socagium*.

We shall not, in illustrating the customs of Godmanchester, enter into the consideration of feudal tenures generally, which were various in their nature, but only into its own peculiar tenure ; much of the law and custom of Saxon times still continuing to affect the property and liberties of the inhabitants. The lands and tenements being in villein-socage, as may be gathered from the preceding free quotations from Blackstone and others, are, though not freehold in their tenure, superior to copyhold, as they are not held at the

will of the Lord, or by arbitrary fine ; nor by copy of Court Roll merely, as by privileged villeins, whose fealty to the Lord is paid by a determined fine ; but the tenants of the property have a freehold interest in it, though they hold it “ *according to the custom of the manor*,” at a certain fixed fee-farm rent. Cities, towns, and lands in the possession of the crown, in the reign of Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror, and defined by Domesday to be *antient demense*, were granted by them or their successors to the inhabitants and occupiers, subject to certain services, the supply of various tributes, or at money rents,<sup>h</sup> and these sources furnished the principal part of the crown revenue under the ordinary circumstances of the state ; they were exacted by public officers ; but in process of time, at the petition of the tenants and inhabitants, who were injured and annoyed by the

<sup>h</sup> Counties were let out to farm in a similar manner. Maddox, in his History of the Exchequer, gives an extensive list of their keepers—chap. x. sect. 5. In the reign of King John, William Mareschal paid by Nicholas de Avenel £372 13s. 6d. with a blank for the farm of Gloucestershire. In the time of Henry the Third, Richard, the king's son, paid £545 8s. 4d. and a blank for the farm of Berkshire. When a county or town was let out at a greater farm than it had formerly been rated at, the advance money was usually termed *crementum*—the increase, which was sometimes paid in palfreys, hawks, &c. ; as, William Rufus in 1184 gave £10 and four hawks increase for the county of Buckingham ; and William Fitz-Richard thirty-nine hawks in the same year for the same county.

cupidity and extortion of these officers, the Kings "would<sup>i</sup> commit a town to the townsmen themselves at farm during his pleasure, instead of committing it to the hands of a provost or farmer; they then obtained it in fee-farm, that is, in perpetual farm; they then prevailed on the King to grant their farm to their heirs; they lastly prevailed on him to make them a corporate body."<sup>k</sup>

Thus emancipated from base villenage, the law no longer considers the freehold of such lands to rest in the supreme lord of whom they are holden, as in Godmanchester, of the King, but in the tenants themselves, who are sometimes called customary freeholders, the manor having been made free, and granted in perpetuity, and they being holders according to the custom of the manor. There can be but little doubt, though it would be difficult to adduce the proof, that the antient service of the tenants of Godmanchester was that of

<sup>i</sup> Maddox MS. Collections.

<sup>k</sup> There is a case in Roll's Abridgment, which says, that "If a King grants lands at a certain rent to the inhabitants of a place, it incorporates them; but it incorporates them for that purpose only—that is, it makes them a Corporation for the purpose of paying the rent. It is a Corporation to give the King against them, for otherwise, neither could they take, nor be liable to the King's demand upon them."

Cited in a Report of the Case of Wells v. Stuart, before a Committee of the House of Commons, on the Election Case of the Borough of Huntingdon, March 20, 1825.

the plough—but more of this hereafter——. In the reign of Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror, it appears by Domesday to have been unquestionably of a pecuniary nature, as it is there recorded to have been rated at £40 a year;<sup>1</sup> but no decisive contract or bargain between the inhabitants<sup>m</sup> and the Crown appears to have taken place until the reign of King John, when he granted and confirmed by charter his manor of Gumecestr' to the men of Gumecestr', at the fee-farm rent of 120*l.* a year.

(No. 1.)—KING JOHN'S CHARTER, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 1213.

John,<sup>n</sup> by the Grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, Earl of Anjou.—To Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons Justiciaries, Viscounts, Sheriffs, and Bailiffs—and all his faithful subjects—Greeting.

Know ye, that we have granted, and by this our Charter have confirmed to our men of Gumecestr', our manor of Gumecestr', to be held of us and our heirs at fee-farm, together with all things belonging to the farm of that

<sup>1</sup> Vide page 62.

<sup>m</sup> In the first year of the reign of King John he granted the lands or manor of Gumencestr' to one Robert de Mortram, at a reserved rent of £10 a year.—See amongst the Charter Rolls in the Tower, one marked "Mem. 9, Chartæ 1<sup>o</sup> Johannis.

Robert de Mortram. Gumencestr' 10<sup>l</sup> terr'—Hunt."

<sup>n</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 1.; and Charter Rolls in the Tower, "No. 14 Johis. Mem. 6. Gunencestr' Homines—Gunnencestr' maner'—Hunt."

manor, for £120 per annum, weight and number—To wit, one moiety at the feast of St. Michael, and the other moiety at Easter, at our Treasury. Therefore we will, and firmly command, that our aforesaid men of Gumecestr,' have and hold, of us and our heirs, the aforesaid manor of Gumecestr,' truly and in peace, freely, quietly, and surely, with all privileges belonging to the farm of the said Manor, at the aforesaid yearly farm of £120, so long as they shall well and truly pay to us the aforesaid Farm Rent.

Witnesses, &c.

The rent of 120*l.* per annum was then perhaps an ample consideration for the manor and its appurtenances;<sup>o</sup> but, in the course of years, the great alteration in the value of money, (whilst the manor being granted in perpetuity at a fixed rent, that rent remaining nominally the same,) renders it now but a comparative trifle: thus, obtaining grants of manors in fee-farm from the crown, was an important accession to the growing liberties of the people, as it raised the burgesses of this and similarly enfranchised towns nearly to a level with the freest tenants of the country. The only difference between them was, that the privileges of boroughs belonged to the inhabitants collectively, whilst the freedom of free-tenants descended to themselves and their heirs.<sup>p</sup>

<sup>o</sup> Even so late as in the year 1624, arable land in Godmanchester was let at two shillings per acre, and grass land at five shillings per acre.—Vide Records of the Borough, book A. p. 108.

<sup>p</sup> Blackstone.

The privileges of tenants in antient demesne are numerous, as exemption from tolls, &c.<sup>a</sup> They were not subsequently taxed for Knights' wages in Parliament ;<sup>r</sup> they are not suitors<sup>s</sup> or amenable to

<sup>a</sup> Gumecester villa de Antiquo Dnico Reg' qd fit immun' a pstcone Theolon et contribut p expenss Milit Pliament. Claus A 5. H. 4. M. 14.—*Julius Cæsar's Chap. Tower.*

<sup>r</sup> " So long as the custom continued of levying Knights' wages in Parliament, no person who was not contributory to their wages was admitted to vote for their election. Tenants in antient demesne were therefore clearly excluded from voting."—*Blackstone.* The antient wages of Burgesses serving in Parliament was two shillings a day ; those of a Knight for the county four shillings. They were fixed at this sum by the 14th of Edw. 2d. Andrew Marvell, Member for Hull, in the reign of Charles 2d, is reported to have been the last who received this mode of compensation for parliamentary service to the state.—It was complained of in a petition to the King from the freeholders in Huntingdonshire, 29th Henry 6th, that the Sheriff had admitted 47 persons to poll for Knights of the Shire, " few of them contributors to the Knight's expenses." As the Sheriff did not return the persons so polled, the affair never came to a formal investigation. This disability of tenants in ancient demesne voting at elections has long ceased.

<sup>s</sup> Et quia hujusmodi tenentes cultores regis esse dignoscuntur, provisum fuit quies ne sectas faciant ad comitatum vel hundredum vel ad aliquas inquisitiones assisas, vel juratus.—*The Author of Fleta Temp. Edward 1.*

An ineffectual attempt was made in the year 1607 to overthrow this privilege, notwithstanding its long uninterrupted enjoyment.

" Gumecester alias Godmanchester, y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> of Maye, 1607.

" This yeare y<sup>e</sup> Bailliffs receved a warrant from Sir Robert Puyne, being Heighe Sherife, to certefy all y<sup>e</sup> freeholders w<sup>th</sup>in this towne, w<sup>h</sup> was answered by this certificat following :

the County Court; they cannot sue or be sued of their lands by the usual real actions of Assize, writ of Entry, &c. in the King's Courts of Common Law; but their more simple and only method of recovering their tenements, &c. is by a peculiar process, called a Writ of Right Close,<sup>t</sup> which being directed

"The towne and mannor of Godmanchester y<sup>e</sup> *auncient demesne* and pcell of the possessions of the Duchie of Lankester, and y<sup>e</sup> a Borowghe incorporated by the name of Bailliffs, Assist and Comltie, who holde y<sup>e</sup> said mannor and borowghe in fee-farm of the King's Ma<sup>tie</sup>, by y<sup>e</sup> yearlie rent of sixscore pounds. And all y<sup>e</sup> lands and tenets w<sup>thin</sup> y<sup>e</sup> saide towne and borowghe are holden of y<sup>e</sup> saide mannor by y<sup>e</sup> severall tenants and inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> saide towne and borowghe as free tenants in auncient demesne aunciently called Sokmanies."—*Vide Bor. Records.*

On Sir Robert Peel's new Jury Bill coming into effect in 1828, a similar prescription was claimed and allowed.

<sup>t</sup> *Provisum est etiam, quod hujusmodi tenentes inter se tantum unicum beneficium habeant recuperationis tenementorum, per quoddam breve de recto clausum ballivo manerii dirigendum, quod plenum rectum teneat querenti secundum consuetudinem manerii.*—*Author of Fleta. Temp. Edw. 1st.*

Et pur ces que nous volons que ils eyent tele quiete, est ordine le brefe de droit clos pledable par baillyfe del maner (de tort fait a l'un sokeman par l'autre) que il teigne le pleintyfs a droit, solone les usages del maner, par simples enquestes.—*Britton, cotemporary with Fleta.*

This may be found also in the old Register of Writs. "Fait Assayvoir que le petit briefe de droyt gyst toutdis pour sokmans que sont del auncien demesne le roi; quar nul sokman poet emplerder auter sokman de terre, ne de tenement, per auter briefe que per petit briefe de droyt." It must be observed, that the little Writ of Right lieth in all cases for sokmen, which are of the



to the Bailiffs, leads to an immediate investigation of the right, which is determined by a jury, according to the custom of the manor, thus effecting a speedy adjustment of the dispute."

Tenants in *antient demesne*, though thus privileged by virtue of their tenure, were nevertheless

King's *antient demesne*; for no sokman can implead another sokman of land or tenement by any other writ than the little Writ of Right.

" To illustrate this simple process, we have subjoined an order of the Court in the 9th year of Elizabeth; by which order the custom is still regulated.

Gumecester, 1567, Novembris vj<sup>o</sup>. A Regni illustrissimo principis Elizabeth dei gra, &c. nono.

For as muche as the custome of this maner haith of most auntient tyme bene (as by all olde recordes may appeare) that in a plea of land holden by vertue of the Queen's Ma<sup>ties</sup> Writ of Right Cloisse, to gyve 3 sumons, 3 distraines, and 3 essoignes, and at the tenth Courte the defendant psonallie to appeare, and at the eleventh Courte either (shewing a reasonable cause) to praie abatement of y<sup>e</sup> writ, or elts to ioyne a pfitte issue w<sup>thout</sup> any furdur delaye by demure or any other delatorie plee (the wordes of the forsayde Writt, comaunding to procede w<sup>thout</sup> delay and accordinge to the custome of the maner,) and then to stande to the verdict of xij men. It is agreed by the Bailieffs and twelve men for the tyme beyng, the daie and yeare above wrytten (dyvers other of the coialtie the daie before assembled about the number of four score, and affyrmyng the same,) that frome henc forth no demurers be here put in and admitted, and that whosoever of the libtie shall attempt the same immedyatlie do stande dissfranchesyd of the saide libertie for ev' and do forfitt to the use of the towne for every suche offence £5.—*Stock Book*; No. 3, p. 108.

amenable to their own Courts, to which they were compelled to do suit and service ; they held their lands subject to the peculiar custom, rent charges, &c. due to the superior Lord, nor could they alienate them<sup>v</sup> to strangers, or even to free tenants by deed or feoffment, and to the latter<sup>w</sup> only by surrender into the hands of the Bailiff, who gave *seisin* to the *cestuy que use*, or the use of the parties mentioned in the surrender. In the Court Rolls of the 41st of Edward 3d, we find the following amongst numerous seisins, which will shew the early custom—a custom that still continues the general practice :

Robertus Bally cepit seiñ  
de uno messuagio iac in le  
Westre cū uno columbar<sup>o</sup>  
stant infa p̄dict messuagiū  
et iac in<sup>l</sup> placeam Johis  
Gyldene et placeam Johis  
Mundeforde : et unū caput  
abutt sr<sup>o</sup> regiam viam et  
aliū caput sr<sup>o</sup> ripam, empl<sup>l</sup>  
de Willo Hors hendū et te-  
nendū p̄dictū messuagiū  
p̄dict Roberto et assignat  
suis ad defendend p. firma  
debit et consuet.

“ Robert Bally took sei-  
sin of a messuage, situate in  
West-street, together with  
a dove-cot standing behind  
the said messuage, and lying  
between the estates of John  
Gyldene and John Munde-  
ford, one end of which abuts  
on the King’s highway, and  
the other on the river ;  
bought of William Hors, to  
have and to hold the afore-  
said messuage to the afore-  
said Robert and his assigns,  
subject to the usual fee-farm  
rent and other customs.”

<sup>v</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 3, *b*.

<sup>w</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 2, *g*.

Joñes Chaderlee cepit seið de uno pychel iað in parco Prior<sup>o</sup> de Merton emp<sup>l</sup> de Alano Alred et Joñne Mundeford exeð Robo de Souche Capello. Test Will Hors. Idm Joñes cep<sup>l</sup> seið de una acra laye iað iux<sup>a</sup> p<sup>l</sup>dict pytel emp<sup>l</sup> de p<sup>l</sup>dict exeð ad defendend p<sup>l</sup> fima debit and consuet.—*Godmanchester Court Rolls*, 1367.

“ John Chaderlee\* took seisin of a pychel lying in the park of the Prior of Merton, bought of Alexander Alred and John Mundeford, executors of Robert de Souche, chaplain, by the witness of William Hors. The said John took also seisin of an acre of leys, lying near the said pytel, bought of the aforesaid executors, to have and to hold, subject to the fee farm rent and other customs.”

This mode of conveying estates by surrender and seisin has been transmitted to us from our Saxon ancestors, and in Godmanchester is called *Surrender by the hand and glove*, the ceremony of which is thus conducted :—A short deed, reciting the nature and extent of the property, is prepared, and given with a glove from the right hand of the grantor into the hands of the Bailiff, for the use of the grantee, who takes seisin of the property by taking the glove from the hands of the Bailiff, and the surrender is registered amongst the records of the borough.<sup>†</sup> Before letters were prevalent in England, this custom, with some modification, applied to the kingdom at large, and was the principal

\* John Chaderlee not being a freeman was admitted to his freedom before he took seisin.—Vide Appendix, No. 3, *b*.

† Surrenders up to a late period were taken in open Court, but now they are usually made in the house of the Bailiff for the time being.

mode of conveyance used previous to the Norman Conquest. The instrument of surrender varied in different places, and was perhaps first adopted by accident, and continued by custom; thus we find it occasionally<sup>a</sup> to have been the Lord's sword, or helmet, a horn, a cup, a stone or sod from the land, a spur, a currycomb, a bow, or an arrow. A few cases, by way of example, may not be considered uninteresting. Withered, King of Kent, granted four plough-lands in the Isle of Thanet, and concludes the deed with these words:—"In testimony<sup>a</sup> of which I lay a sod of the said earth upon the holy altar." Æthbald, the Mercian King, gave the monastery of Cuthan, with all the lands thereunto appertaining, to Christ Church, Canterbury, and for the confirmation of the gift, commanded a clod of the earth,<sup>b</sup> with all the writings, to be laid upon the altar. Cedwalla, King of the South Saxons, made a grant of land to Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 687, the conclusion of which was—"For a further confirmation of my grant, I, Cedwalla,<sup>c</sup> have laid a turf of the land aforesaid upon the holy altar of my Saviour, and with my own hands, being ignorant of letters, have

<sup>a</sup> "Conferebantur etiam primo multa prædia nudo verbo, absque scripto vel chartâ tantum cum domini gladio vel galea, vel cornu, vel cratera; et plurima tenementa cum calcari, cum strigili, cum arcu et nonnulla cum sagitta."—*Ingulphus*.

<sup>a</sup> "Ad cujus cumulum affirmationis, cespitem hujus supradictæ terræ super sanctum altare posui."—*Camden*.

<sup>b</sup> Selden and Bacon.      <sup>c</sup> Camden.

set down and expressed the mark or sign of the holy cross." Milo,<sup>d</sup> Earl of Hereford, A. D. 1141, gave half his fisheries to the canons of Lauthon cum Glocester, by delivering a gold ring on the altar of their church. Edgar<sup>e</sup> cut his staff in two, and gave one part to Glastonbury Abbey for a proof of his grant. At Pusey, in Berkshire, a horn<sup>f</sup> is used; an old legend originates their custom in Knute, the Danish King, having presented their ancestors with a horn.

In the principality of Wales, the type used is a twig, cut from a tree growing on the land about to be transferred. In the neighbouring manor of Offord Darcy, Hunts, estates are conveyed by a rod. In the Isle of Man, conveyances were made (*per traditionem stipulæ*) by the delivery of a straw.<sup>g</sup> The

<sup>d</sup> Atkins.

<sup>e</sup> Malmsh.

<sup>f</sup> Much information on tenures by the horn, either in frank, almoigne, or in fee, or in serjeanty, may be found in the 3d volume of the Archaeologia; also drawings of the Foxlow, Borstal, Pusey, Carlisle, and Lord Bruce's horns. In the Council Room of York Minster is still preserved a curious horn, if it may be so called, made of an elephant's tooth, by which that church holds several lands, which are called "De Terra Ulphi." Before the Reformation it was handsomely adorned with gold, and was pendant in a chain of the same metal. As is observed by the Author of the "Antiquarian Itinerary," these ornaments were most probably the occasion of its being then taken away; but despoiled of them, it was subsequently returned to the church by Henry Lord Fairfax. The Chapter have again richly decorated and affixed to it a Latin inscription, in honour of its restorer.

<sup>g</sup> A similar instance may be quoted from Holy Writ: "Now

celebrated James, 7th Earl of Derby, in his historical account of the Isle of Man, written in the form of a letter to his son Charles, thus expresses himself on this subject: "There comes this very instant an occasion to me to acquaint you with a special matter, which, if by reason of these troublesome and dangerous times, I cannot bring to pass my intents therein, you may in your better leisure consider thereof, and make use hereafter of my present labours, in the matter of a certain holding in this country, called the tenure of the straw. *Whereby men think their dwellings are their own auncient inheritances*, and that they may passe the same to any, and dispose thereof, without licence from the Lord, but paying him a bare small rent, like unto a fee-farm in England, wherein they are much deceived." William the Conqueror, in his first endeavours to change our Saxon customs and institutions into those of Norman origin, commanded that all transfers of real property should be transacted in writing, and bear the signatures of competent witnesses; but this was too important a change to be at once established in the habits of even a conquered people, who, however unlettered themselves, wisely foresaw the cavils, delays, and possible future contingent difficulties and expenses

this was the manner in former times in Israel, concerning redeeming, and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour; and this was a testimony in Israel."—*Ruth*, c. iv. v. 7.

that might attach to this more complicated mode of conveyance. They moreover deemed that this was but a step preparatory to altering the laws and institutions of the country altogether, and perhaps to the curtailment of those liberties they had enjoyed under their Saxon Monarchs. He subsequently restricted this new form of law to his royal and other grants, effecting at the same time the introduction of the Norman language into the practice of the courts, continuing the surrender of all real property into the hands of the Lord, on its being transferred, which was then taken possession of by the grantee on the payment of a customary fine, and the lands continued to be held by feudal tenure. Such is still the tenure of copyhold and antient demesne lands. The fine was called Garsuna or Garson; but in process of time, in some instances, the Lord remitted the fine, and thus in many places, as in Godmanchester, it fell into comparative disuse, and at length was never insisted upon. Garson appears, excepting in particular instances, to have been regularly taken in the manor of Godmanchester until the year 1638, when it ceased altogether. The last entry on the subject occurs in that year in the accounts of Mr. Bailiff Carlis, who states that he had received for

“Amciaments at the Leete and Garsons £3 12s. 8½d.”

The transfer by the “hand and glove”<sup>h</sup> is a cheap

<sup>h</sup> Gloves were a costly ornament of dress to our forefathers,

and simple method of conveyance. The short deed is, as has been observed, registered in books kept for that purpose, and may always be referred to; on application to the Bailiffs, and the intricacy and complexity of title deeds are in a great measure avoided.

In violation of this antient custom of surrender and seisin, other modes of transfer are occasionally practised in Godmanchester, but the tenure, even at this day, by the expensive, tedious, and complex forms of conveyance, called lease and release, or feoffment, is of a doubtful nature, when applied to lands and tenements in *antient demesne*; for, were investigations of titles to be made by Writs of Right Close, there are instances in which, it is to be feared, the security of proprietors might be shaken. Upon informalities apparently much less important, Writs of Right Close are numerous in the Court Records of the Borough, from the most antient times, but for the last half century have been less common. The personal privileges of tenants in *antient demesne* are strictly confined to the resident tenants, though the customary laws affecting the freehold equally attach to the non-resident proprietor. The forms of admission to denizenship have varied at different eras, a selection from which may be found in Appendix, No. 3: but these stipu-

and frequently enriched with beads and precious stones, and not uncommonly interchanged by parties as pledges of good faith.—*Forsyth.*



lations always obtained an oath of fealty to the Lord, submission to the customs, and the exaction of an arbitrary and variable fine.

Here we could wish to abandon further legal technicalities, which may serve to perplex the general reader, but must first describe the customary descent of property in Godmanchester, which is, nevertheless, only applicable to those dying intestate.

“Tenure in burgage<sup>1</sup> is described by Glanvil to be lands or tenements held at a certain rent, and where the King or other person is Lord: which is expressly called by Littleton, tenure in socage. It was of Saxon institution, and withstood the shock of the Norman encroachments. The free socage in which these tenements are held, may also account for the great variety of customs, affecting many of these tenements so held in antient burgage: the principal and most remarkable of which is that called *Borough English*, so named in contradistinction, as it were, to the Norman customs; viz. that the youngest son and not the eldest, succeeds to the burgage tenement on the death of his father. For which Littleton gives this reason—‘because the younger son, from his tender age, is not so capable as the rest of his brethren to help himself.’ Other authors have indeed given a much stranger one for this custom, as if the Lord of the fee had antiently a right of concubinage with his

<sup>1</sup> Blackstone.

tenant's wife on her wedding night; and that therefore the tenement descended not to the eldest, but the youngest son, who was more certainly the offspring of the tenant. But I cannot learn (says Blackstone) that ever this custom prevailed in England." Bracton, on the contrary, insists that this custom formerly existed all over England; and states, that by an antient record it appears that W. Maynard, of Heurst, in Berkshire, paid the Abbot of Abingdon *maritagium et marcheta* for his daughter and sister. This fine, called by abbreviation *marchet*, still continues in some manors in Wales, and is by the Welch written *gwahr merched* (a maid's fee).<sup>\*</sup> In the manor of Dinevor, in Caermarthen-shire, every tenant at the marriage of his daughter pays to the Lord of the Manor ten shillings; and in that of Biulth, in Radnorshire, six shillings and eightpence. Eugenius, King of Scotland, granted this feudal privilege to the manorial lords of that kingdom, which was subsequently abolished by Malcolm the 3d; though the fine of *marcheta* in many instances still obtains. The custom prevailed also in Guernsey and Ireland, in which last place it was called *lohempy*. Perhaps<sup>1</sup> the most reasonable origin of this custom of descent of property in burgage tenure may be drawn from the practice of the Tartars; among whom, according to Father Duhalde, it is very general. That nation is com-

<sup>\*</sup> History of Stamford.

<sup>1</sup> Blackstone,

posed totally of shepherds and herdsmen ; and the elder sons, as soon as they are capable of leading a pastoral life, migrate from their father, with a certain allotment of cattle, and go to seek a new habitation. The youngest son, therefore, who continues latest with the father, is naturally the heir of his house, the rest being already provided for. And thus we find that among many other northern nations, it was the custom for all the sons but one to migrate from the father, which one became his heir.<sup>m</sup> So that possibly this custom, wherever it exists, (as in Godmanchester,) may be the remnant of that pastoral state of our British and German ancestors which Cæsar and Tacitus describe. A pregnant proof that these liberties of socage tenure were fragments of Saxon liberty.

In the Cotton MSS. Brit. Mus. are the following particulars relative to this custom :

“ Also it is ordeyned and statutyd, that if any man of the s<sup>d</sup> towne of Gumycestre have two or three sons of one woman, lawfully begotten, the younger of the s<sup>d</sup> sons shall by the Ayer, according to the use and custome of Borough-English ;<sup>n</sup> and although that he have had two or

<sup>m</sup> Pater cunctos filios adultus a se pellebat, praeter unum quem haeredem sui juris relinquebat. — *Walsingh. Upodigm. Neust.* c. 1.

<sup>n</sup> “ 1520—12th Henry 8th. In answer to the King's Writ, ‘ If a man have several sons, which of them shall be the heir ? ’ William Vinter and John Freer, Bailiffs, reply as follows: ‘ We have inspected the antient customs of the town of Godmanchester, and if any man have two or three legitimate sons by one woman,

three wives, and each of them children, never the lesse the younger son of the first wife shall be the heire. Also that if any man have purchased any lands or tenements w<sup>th</sup> his wife, y<sup>t</sup> is leffull for the s<sup>d</sup> man, while he is alyve, to gyve, sell, or bequeath the s<sup>d</sup> lands or ten<sup>ts</sup> without the license of his s<sup>d</sup> wife, and such a woman shall have no dowres.<sup>o</sup>

the youngest of them shall be the heir according to the custom of Borough-English (Burgagii Anglicane.) If a man shall have sons by a 2d or 3d marriage, the youngest son by the first wife shall be heir.'—' May 30th, 1639. Henry Arsley was seized in a mess and close as youngest son by the first venter of Thomas Arsley, his father deceased.' — 'Cur. tent. 27th Jan<sup>r</sup>. 1630. Emanuel Lettice seized in 2 parts of a ten<sup>t</sup>—ut frater natu minimus et proxim heres—of his sisters Alicia Rogers and Rachel Bowles, deceased, according to the custom of Godmanchester—tempore a quo non extat memoria hominum usitat et approbat, &c.'—' April 12th, 1632. John Scatcher, son of Jasper Scatcher, deceased, was seized of one messuage, as youngest brother and next heir of John Scatcher, youngest son of the first wife of the said Jasper Scatcher, and heir of the said Jasper, according to the custom.'—' May 13th, 1641. Richard Weaver, of Hail Weston, was seized in certain lands and ten<sup>s</sup> in Godman'. He had four sons, Richard, John, William, and Edward; the youngest son Edward died, and on the death of the father the lands and ten<sup>s</sup> fell to William, the third son, being the youngest then surviving.' —' June 14th, 1683. John Wright seized in 9½ acres of arable land, as youngest brother and next heir to Roger Wright, his elder brother Thomas being alive.'—*Extracts from Court Books.*

• It is not called dower in antient demesne property, but the widow's *free-bench*: which is that estate in the land which the wife has on the death of her husband, and which is regulated by custom. "Anno 26 Henry 8th. Ellen Burder recovered the half-acre of meadow in Hudpool from John Granger, who formerly bought it of her husband, William Burder, she not having

“ Also that men children shall be of full age, so that they may gyve, sell, or assigne their lands or rents when they come to the age of xx yeares,<sup>p</sup> and women at the age of xvj yeares.<sup>q</sup>

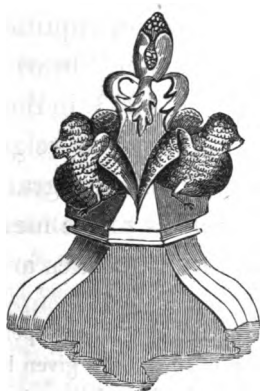
“ Also that if any man have two sons married by his wyfe, and one of these sonnes hath an ayre masculine, and the other an ayre femynyne, and if it chance after these two sonnes to depart and die, the father of them being alyve, and after it chanches the father of them to dye, then that same heire masculine shall be the ayer, and not the ayre femynyne, tho’ she be of the yonger son.”

been sole examined.”—1628. Lucillia Ambrose, wife of John Ambrose, being an inheretrix, conveyed her lands without her husband. Thomas Ambrose sues as youngest son and heir of John Ambrose, according to the custom of Godmanchester. Katherine Gray, defendt, avows in evidence the custom of Godman<sup>r</sup>, that a *feme covert* being an inheretrix, may devise her lands without joining her husband, and proves the same by precedents in the reigns of Henry the 7th and 8th, and Elizabeth. Upon the trial the Jury found for Katherine Gray, tenant by the gift of her grandmother, being a *feme covert*, not joining her husband good by the custom.—*Vide C. B. March 5th. Anno 4to. Caroli.*

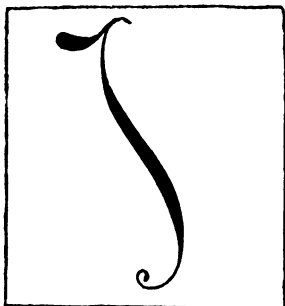
<sup>p</sup> In the 13th of Henry 8th, “ Thomas Dalton surrendered a messuage to Richard Freer, being 20 years of age.”—“ 1580—26<sup>o</sup> Eliz. July 2d. Oath was made in Court, that Robert Wright, when he sold Landberry Close, was 20 years of age.”—“ 1676—28 An. Car. 1. 8th Junii. Eliz. Maile sibi petit se admitti Gardian Thome Mayle filius eius quousque deveint ad etatem vigint annor scdm consuet manii et admissa est.”—*Vide Court Books.*

<sup>q</sup> 1668—April 19th. Oath being made before the Bailiffs, that Dorothy Cole was of the age of 16 years. She, with others, surrendered a house in Arning-street to Thomas Newman.—1674.—Jan. 12th. Admissions of females surrendering at 16 years of age.—*Vide Court Books.*

Having traced the original of some of our customs, and attempted to illustrate them by parallel cases and the best established authorities on the subject, and brought down our History to the chartered grant of King John, we will describe the principal events connected with the intervening period of that time and the Charter of Incorporation by King James, in considering the import of the various inspeximus, confirmations, and grants of the reigning Monarchs, together with the several Inquests that have been held regarding the manor.



## CHAPTER VI.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY, CONTINUED FROM  
A.D. 1213 TO 1604.

IN the Charter<sup>a</sup> of "John, King of England,<sup>b</sup> Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, Earl of Anjou," bearing date May 20, 1213, in the fourteenth year of his reign, we find the manor granted in fee-farm for himself and his heirs to his men of Gumecestr' at £120 a year, with all liberties and privileges be-

<sup>a</sup> Vide page 78, and original, in the Appendix, No. 1.

<sup>b</sup> From the collection of royal titles given by Sir Edward Coke in his first Institute, book 1, chap. 1, sec. 1, p. 7, *a*, we may observe that the Sovereign's title was changed according to the acquisition or alienation of territory. The expression, "by the grace of God King of the English," or "of all Britain," being extant in the charters of William Rufus, and even in one of the Saxon Kings, Edwyn, dated A. D. 956. King John first adopted the title of Lord of Ireland; his possessions there had been obtained by the conquests of his father, who in 1176 created him King of that country, but the title was not assumed as it is now

longing to the manor. The number of witnesses by which it is signed is expressive of the King's Council, by whom it was granted.

The Charter of John was ratified by the *inspeximus* of his grandson, Edward 1st, in whose letters patent, commencing with "Edward, &c. King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitaine," it is fully recited. They conclude with "Witness myself at Hansted the 6th of May, in the 33d year of our reign." (A. D. 1305.)

The letters patent of Edward 1st were confirmed by the *inspeximus* of his grandson, Edward 3d, which begins with "Edward, &c. King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland." His letters patent are witnessed by "myself at Westminster, 4th of February, in the year of our reign over England the 22d, and of France the 9th." (A.D. 1343.)

In the *inspeximus* of Richard 2d, the letters patent of his grandfather, Edward 3d, are recited, and, like them, it styles the Monarch "King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland." His letters patent confirmatory are witnessed by "myself at Westminster on the 18th of May, in the 2d year of our reign." (A.D. 1379.)

used until 1531, by King Henry 8th. The style of Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine were appended to the royal title by Henry 2d, who held them in right of Eleanor his Queen. They were disused by Henry 3d in 1259, restored again by Edward 1st, and finally exchanged in 1339 by Edward the 3d for the title of King of France.—*Thomson's Notes on Magna Charta.*



Some difficulties appear at this time to have been opposed to the men of Gumecestr' in the exercise of their manorial rights, amongst which they claimed the goods of felons and outlaws, as also waifs and strays ; therefore at their petition these privileges, previously demanded as appendages to the manor, were expressly assured to them by letters patent, to which the great seal was affixed on the 28th of March, 1381 :

(No. 2.)

FELON'S GOODS, &c. CONFIRMED BY LETTERS PATENT  
OF RICHARD 2D.<sup>c</sup>

Richard, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to his present and all future Sheriffs and Escheators<sup>d</sup> in the county of Huntingdon, greeting.—Whereas Lord John, formerly King of England, our progenitor, by his Charter which Lord Edward, formerly King of England, our father's great grandfather, and Lord Edward, late King of England, our grandfather, by their letters patent, have confirmed, did grant and confirm to his men of Gumecestre his manor of Gumecestre, to hold of him and his heirs at fee-farm, with all things

<sup>c</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 4.

<sup>d</sup> "The office of escheator was chosen annually, being chose in the Exchequer, one for each county, whose business it was to collect all the escheats or extraordinary and dropping dues, such as forfeitures, heriots, wards, lapses of advowsons, revenues of vacant dignities and livings, &c. in each particular county, for the king's use. The inquisitions taken by these officers afford us, perhaps, says Bishop Nicholson, in p. 208 of Hist. Libr., 'upon the death of any gentleman of estate y<sup>e</sup> truest draughts of the several counties of England.'"—*Colé's MS. Escheats in the Brit. Mus.*

belonging to the farm of the said manor, for six twenty pounds a year at his Treasury, and willed and decreed that his said men of Gumecestre should have and hold of him and his heirs the said manor of Gumecestre truly and in peace, freely, quietly, and fully, with all liberties to the farm of the said manor belonging, at the aforesaid annual farm, that is to say, six twenty pounds as aforesaid, so long as they paid to him the said farm. And We, the said grants and confirmations, through our special favour towards them, for ourselves and our heirs, as much as in us lies, to the aforesaid men of Gumecestre and their heirs and successors, men of the said manor, have ratified, approved, granted, and confirmed, as the said Charter and Letters fully attest, and as the said men and their predecessors of the aforesaid manor have hitherto reasonably enjoyed, and as in our said letters patent is more fully explained. Under the colour and sanction of which, the said men and their predecessors, our men of the said town, now commonly called Gurmunchestre, have always hitherto had the chattels<sup>e</sup> of felons and fugitives, and all manner of beasts and chattels called Waif and Stray, by chance found there, as appurtenances of the said manor, from the time of the granting of the said Charter of King John, our progenitor, and as they urge they ought to have. We command ye, that ye permit our men of the said manor to have, according to their custom, the chattels of felons and fugitives, and all manner of beasts and chattels called waif and stray, by chance found there, without any let or hinderance, as they ought to have,

<sup>e</sup> In the Bailiff's Accounts for 1619, occurs this item: "The goods of John Miller escheatinge to y<sup>e</sup> towne for felony £4.4s.9d."

The law of forfeiture, in cases of common felony, was abolished by Act 54 Geo. 3d.

and as their predecessors, men of the said manor, from the said time have been accustomed to have. And the said men in their liberties, and in all things as appurtenances of the farm of the said manor, which by virtue of their Charter and Confirmations they have hitherto reasonably used and enjoyed, ye shall suffer to use and enjoy, according to the tenor of their Charter and our aforesaid Confirmation, to their full intent and meaning, without any molestation whatsoever.

Witness myself at Westminster, the 28th day of March, in the fourth year of our reign.

On the same day, the following letters patent were also obtained, by which their privileges as tenants in antient demesne, of freedom from customary tolls, were set forth, and commanded to be observed throughout the kingdom :

(No. 3.<sup>f</sup>)

Richard, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to all and every Mayors, Constables, Bailiffs, and other officers, wherever and whatever throughout our kingdom of England, to whom these present letters shall come, greeting.—Whereas, according to the custom in our kingdom of England hitherto observed and approved, the men of our antient demesne of our crown of England are and ought to be free from tolls throughout the whole of our kingdom : We therefore will and command you, and each of you, that you shall cause the men of our manor of Gumecestre, now commonly called Gurmunchestre, which is of the antient demesne of the crown of England, to be freed and exonerated from all manner of tolls for their goods and chattels,

<sup>f</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 5.

according to the custom aforesaid. And if ye shall, under any pretext, have made any distrain on the aforesaid men, or any of them, ye shall without delay re-deliver the same.

Witness myself at Westminster, the 28th day of March, in the fourth year of our reign.  
(A.D. 1381.)

Notwithstanding their common law right of demanding, as tenants in antient demesne, to whom their manor had been granted in perpetuity, escheats, &c. of felons, and immunity from tolls, in which they were further protected by these royal and special grants,—we find the men of Gurmunchestre, in 1392, again petitioning the Crown for its protection in the enjoyment of these privileges, on which Richard the 2d granted them an entire new Charter, comprehending the original Charter by King John, the Confirmations of Edward the 1st and 3d, and himself, together with the letters patent above recorded, for which they paid into his hanaper forty pounds.

(No. 4.<sup>s</sup>)

#### CHARTER OF RICHARD 2D. A. D. 1392.

Richard, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to his Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Counts, Barons, Justiciaries, Sheriffs, Governors, Officers, and to all Bailiffs and others his faithful subjects, greeting.—Know ye, that as Lord John, formerly King of England, our progenitor, by his Charter, which Lord Edward, formerly King of England,

Vide Appendix, No. 6.

son of King Henry, by his Charter, and Lord Edward, late King of England, our grandfather, by his Charter, and We, in like manner, by our Charter, have confirmed,—did grant, and by his said Charter confirm to his men of Gumcestre his manor of Gumcestre, to hold of him the said King John, and his heirs, at fee farm, with all things belonging to the said manor, for six twenty pounds a year, weight and number, as in the said Charter and Confirmations more at large is set forth: and whereas our men of our said manor of Gumcestre have petitioned us, that as by virtue of the said Charter of the said King John, and the general words therein contained, amongst divers other franchises and liberties, they have had the chattels of felons, and fugitives, and suicides, and also of those who are banished from our kingdom of England, and infangethef,<sup>b</sup> and outfangethef,<sup>c</sup> and in the exercise of which liberties they have been of late denied and disturbed—We will that the aforesaid liberties, in special and express words, shall be assured and confirmed to them. We, in consideration of the losses and injuries which our aforesaid men, in their lands, tenements, and mills, frequently sustain from inundations and floods, of our especial grace, and at the petition of the aforesaid men, and also in consideration of a fine of forty pounds to us in our hanaper by them paid, grant, and by this our present Charter confirm, for ourselves and our heirs, as far as our power extends, to the said men and their successors, that they shall have and hold the said manor, with its appur-

<sup>b</sup> Infangethef was a privilege of lords of certain manors, to pass judgment of theft committed by persons within their jurisdiction.

<sup>c</sup> Outfangethef was a privilege enabling a lord to bring to trial, in his own Court, any person living in his own fee that was charged with felony in any other place.

tenances, and moreover they shall have all manner of chattels of felons and fugitives, and of suicides and outlaws, and of those who are banished our kingdom of England, and infangethef and outfangethef, and all manner of forfeitures within the said manor and liberty, as well of the clergy and inhabitants as of travellers and strangers for ever.— We furthermore grant for ourselves and our heirs, as much as in us lies, to the said men and their successors, that they shall be free from tolls,<sup>k</sup> murage, stallage, passage, and pavage, throughout our whole said kingdom for ever. Wherefore We will and command, for ourselves and our heirs, that our said men and their successors have and hold to themselves and their successors all and singular the aforesaid franchises, liberties and acquittances, which they and every of them shall fully enjoy and use for ever, as aforesaid.

By these witnesses—the most venerable Father,  
William Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of  
all England, and others.

Given under our hand at Westminster, the fifteenth  
day of February, in the 15th year of our reign.

<sup>k</sup> Arbitrary exactions of this kind still continue to be demanded in various manors and boroughs, and at the period of which we are considering, were common throughout England. In many instances, the purposes for which grants of tolls were made have been superseded by the altered state of the country, as that of *murage*, which was levied on passengers for the repair of walls of towns and boroughs; in like manner pontage or bridge tolls; passage and pavage, for the repair of streets and highways, are objected to, as those repairs are, generally speaking, provided for by express Acts of Parliament, empowering Commissioners to levy rates on the inhabitants of counties or boroughs for that purpose. Important legal decisions have recently been obtained in favor of the objectors to these local tolls where they were con-

To give full effect to this Charter, the King issued his writ of Privy Seal on the 16th February, 1392, that is, the day after it was signed.

(No. 5.<sup>1</sup>)

Richard, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland—to all Justiciaries, Sheriffs, Escheators, Coroners, Mayors, Constables, Bailiffs, Officers, and others, his faithful subjects, greeting.

Whereas King John, formerly King of England (the Charter here is fully recited) To you and each of you, We especially command, that you shall permit the said men of our manor of Gumecestre, now called Gurmunchestre, and their successors, to have and enjoy all and every of the liberties and acquittances aforesaid, without any manner of impediment, according to the tenor of the said Charters and Confirmations, each and every of them, against the tenor and effect of which you shall offer no description of molestation.

Witness myself at Westminster, the 16th day of February, in the 15th year of our reign.

Through the succeeding reigns of Henry 4th, 5th, 6th, Edward 4th, Henry 7th, 8th, Edward 6th, Mary and Elizabeth, we have inspeximus and confirmations of this Charter; but as in no instance do we find in them any increase or diminution of the privileges and liberties granted to the men of Gurmunchestre, it would be useless to load our pages with their formal recital. This Charter

continued to be demanded, as in the towns of Cambridge, Boston, &c.

<sup>1</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 7.

of Richard is important in our annals, as under its provisions the town was governed from 1392 to the year 1604, when James the First granted the men of Gumecestre the more enlarged Charter, by which they were created into a body corporate, and under which the municipal government of the town is still conducted.

These charters and letters patent may be illustrated by other documents, but principally inquiries, for the knowledge of which we are chiefly indebted to the Commissioners appointed for the better preservation of the public records, to whose industry, ability, and research, and that of the Sub-commissioners, the historian, antiquarian, and geologist, as well as the country at large, are under great obligations. Their labours have become more generally known to the country through the "*Notitia Historica*" of Nicholas Harris Nicolas, Esq.,<sup>m</sup> a small but invaluable publication to those engaged in the abstruse studies of history and antiquities, and whose comments on the works published by the Commissioners we shall occasionally take the liberty of quoting.

The *Rotuli Hundredorum*, Temp. Edw. 1, in *Turr. Lond' et in Curia Recepta Scaccarii Westm.*

<sup>m</sup> Nicholas Harris Nicolas, Esq. of the Inner Temple, author of the "*Life of William Davison, Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth, &c.*" and joint Editor with Henry Southern, Esq. of Trinity College, Cambridge, of "*The Retrospective Review, and Historical and Antiquarian Magazine.*"



Asservati, 2 vols. folio, contain inquisitions taken in pursuance of a special commission issued under the great seal, dated the 11th October, 2d Edw. I. A. D. 1274.

The revenues of the crown arising from knights' fees, escheats, wardships, marriages, &c., were considerably diminished by tenants in capite alienating without licence, and by the clergy as well as the laity withholding, under various pretences, the just dues and rights of the crown, and assuming the power of holding courts and other jura regalia. Exactions and oppressions had also been committed on the people by the nobility and other great men, claiming the rights of free chace, and free warren, and also by demanding unreasonable tolls in markets and fairs: and likewise by sheriffs and escheators, &c. under colour of the law. These abuses remained unreformed until the return of King Edward from the Holy Land, towards the end of the second year of his reign; when it became one of his first objects to enquire into the demesnes, rights, and revenues of the crown on the one hand, and into the conduct of its officers on the other. The King, therefore, issued the commission above-mentioned, and the result produced evidence, on the oath of a jury, of the several hundreds and towns in every county. This evidence is arranged under twelve heads, but we shall only enumerate those connected with our subject.

1st. All the demesne lands of the Crown, whether antient or newly acquired.

2d. Manors, &c. formerly in the hands of the Crown, persons holding the same, and how acquired.

3d. Tenants in capite, and tenants in antient demesne.

4th. Fee-farms of the Crown.

5th. Oppressions of the nobility, clergy, &c.

*Extract from the Huntingdonshire Rolls.*

A<sup>o</sup> 4. ED. 1. ROT' EXTRACT' COM. HUNTEDON, NO: 2.

M. 28. IN DOMO CAPITULARI WESTM'. COM. HUNTEDON.

Extract' Inquisiçonū factarū p pceptū dñi Regis in comitatibz Linc', Oxon', Berk', Buk', Bed', Cantebr', Huntedon', Devoñ, Cornuð de juribz et libtatibz dñi Regis subtractis et excessis vicecom' coron' escaet' et alioꝝ ballivoꝝ dñi Regis quoꝝcumq alioꝝ ballioꝝ quoquomodo dñm Regem spectantibz anno Regni Regis E fit Regis H. quarto.

Hundr' de Touleslond in Com. Hunted', (page 198.)

Que & manſia eẽ solēt in manibz, &c.?

Dicunt qđ villa de Gommecestr, fuit de dñico dñi

From an inquisition made under the precept of our Lord the King, in the counties of Lincoln, Oxford, Berks, Buckingham, Bedford, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Devon, &c. in the fourth year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Henry.

Hundred of 'Toseland, in the county of Huntingdon.

How many and what manors were in the hands of the King?

It is answered, that the town of Gommecestr' was of the demesne of our Lord

<p>Regis p̄ris R̄ nūc et dedit          dcam villā dno Edmundo fil          suo xij annis elaps' et valet          p annū vj<sup>xx</sup> libr'.</p>	<p>the King, the father of the          present King, and that 12          years since he gave the said          town to his son Edmund,          and that its annual farm is          six score pounds.</p>
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Henry the third left two sons, Edward his successor, and Edmund Plantagenet, first Earl of Lancaster.<sup>n</sup> The earldom of Leicester was conferred upon Edmund, with the stewardship of England, in 1265,<sup>o</sup> with the honour of Derby, and the castles, manors, and lands forfeited by Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, and Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester.<sup>p</sup> He had also a grant of the honour and castle of Monmouth<sup>q</sup> released to him by his brother, Prince Edward, to whom they had been alienated by John de Monmouth, and obtained the earldom of Lancaster the day before the calends of July 1267, the 51st of Henry 3d. He died at Bayon, in France, in 1296, leaving issue three sons,<sup>r</sup>—Thomas, Henry, and John, by Blanch, his second

<sup>n</sup> Collins states, that the first Earl of Lancaster, after the Conquest, was Robert de Poitou, a younger son of Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel, who was so made by William the Conqueror; but taking part with his brother, Robert de Belesme, he was banished England, after which Henry 2d gave his great inheritance to Ranulph de Gernun, Earl of Chester.

<sup>o</sup> Banks's Dorm. Bar. vol. iii.    <sup>p</sup> Rot. Pat. 49th H. 3d.—*m*, 2.

<sup>q</sup> Pat. Rot. 40th H. 3d.—*m*, 2.

<sup>r</sup> Banks.

wife, daughter to Robert Earl of Artois, a younger son of Lewis 8th, King of France. The inquest above cited is very important, as fixing the time when Henry alienated from the Crown the fee-farm rent or demesne of Godmanchester, and bestowed it on the earldom of Lancaster. From our Appendix it appears that the Commissioners made more than one report with respect to this event.<sup>a</sup> In a statement of the grants made by King Henry 3d to his son Edmund, in the 51st year of his reign, in the "Calendarum Rotulorum Chartarum," published by the Commissioners in 1803, occurs the following entry, p. 94 :

CHART' 51<sup>o</sup>. H. 3. PARS UNICA MEM. 4. EDMUNDUS FILIUS  
REGIS.

Monemuth castrum,	}	Castra	}	Wallia.
Grose mound,				
Blanchcastell,				
Skenefrith,				
Lancastr' castr' & honor'	}	vaccar'	}	Lancastr'.
Wirisdale,				
Lounesdale,				
Novum castrum subtus Lynam				Stafford.
Pykering castrum et foresta,				Ebor'.
Gomincester villa,			}	Hunting'.
Huntedon villa redd.				

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<sup>a</sup> Appendix, No. 2, p. a.

In the Charter Rolls of Edward 1st, Godmanchester is also recited, amongst the possessions of Edmund Earl of Lancaster and Leicester.

MEM. 19, 20, 22. EDMUND FRAT' REGIS COM LANC' ET  
LEICESTR'.

23 PRO EODEM COM.

Leicestr' castr' villa confirm sibi et		
Herod de Corp'		} Leicestr'
Kenilworth bosc' et domin' liba		
chasea et Warr'		} Warr'
Lancastr' castr' honor	}	}
villa		
Wyresdale forest'		
Lonesdale forest'	}	}
Novum castrum subtus		
Linam	}	}
Pickering castr' forest'		
Salleby	}	}
Gomecestr'		
	concess' ut supra	Hunting'

On the death of Edmund, Thomas, his eldest son, succeeded his father in the earldom of Lancaster; and in the 26th of Edward 1st, being reputed of age, did fealty and had seisin of his lands,<sup>t</sup> excepting the dowry of Blanch, his mother, then surviving. In the 4th of Edward 2d, he married Alice, sole daughter and heiress of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and had livery of the castle

<sup>t</sup> Bank's Dorm. and Ext. Baronage.

of Denbigh, and other lands of her inheritance. He was considered one of the most potent of a party at that time formed into a confederation for the redress of grievances, and being regarded as a person of great zeal and integrity for the public welfare, was esteemed the bulwark of the liberties of the people, to whose cause he ultimately fell a martyr. Having joined a formidable insurrection in 1322, in aid of the Scottish invasion, he was taken prisoner in a skirmish at Borough-bridge, and from thence conducted to his castle at Pontefract, and there executed.<sup>u</sup> Thomas, second Earl of Lancaster, dying without issue, notwithstanding his attainder, was succeeded by his brother Henry, who obtained livery of his lands. In 1324 he did homage for the town of Godmanchester, and fee-farm rent of Huntingdon, and was allowed to assume the title and honour of Earl of Leicester.

Extracte finium Cancellar' de S'c'da p'te de Anno xvij Edw. 2, Ro. 30.

R cepit Homagium Henr' de Lancast' fris et her' Thome quondam com' Lancast' de villa de Gumnecestar et redditum villate de Huntyngdon cum omnibz ptin' suis &c.

In the seventeenth year of Edw. 2d.—The King accepted the homage of Henry of Lancaster, brother and heir of Thomas late Earl of Lancaster, for the town of Gumnecestar, and the fee-farm rent of Huntingdon, with their appurtenances, &c.

<sup>u</sup> Banks, Rapin, and Hume.

He was shortly afterwards one of the nobles mainly instrumental in deposing Edward the Second, and effecting, during his life time, the succession of his son, Edward the Third, to the throne of England. In the first year of this monarch's reign, A. D. 1337, in a Parliament held at Westminster, he obtained an act for reversing the attainder of his brother Thomas, and thereby the re-possession of the earldoms of Lancaster and Leicester, together with the lands and lordships that were forfeited in consequence thereof; and in the same year was appointed Captain General of all the King's forces in the marches of Scotland. He died the 19th of Edward the Third, and left issue six daughters, and one son, Henry, 4th Earl of Lancaster; who, having signalized himself by valour and successes in the wars of France, had, previous to his father's death, been created Earl of Derby.<sup>v</sup> He was subsequently rewarded with the earldom of Lincoln,<sup>w</sup> and in the 25th of Edward 3d advanced to the dignity of Duke of Lancaster, with power to have a chancery in the county of Lancaster,<sup>x</sup> as also to enjoy all other liberties and regalities belonging to a county palatine, in as ample a manner as the Earl of Chester<sup>y</sup> was known to have

<sup>v</sup> Chart. Rolls, 11th Edward 3d, n. 50.

<sup>w</sup> Chart. Rolls, 23d Edw. 3d, n. 10.

<sup>x</sup> Banks.

<sup>y</sup> "Rex concessit Henrico duci Lancast' quod infra eundem comitatum habeat cancellar' suam, et alia jura regalia prout comes palatinus Cestriæ: et quod duos milites pro communitate comi-

within that county. After a life devoted to the public service, covered with an honourable and imperishable renown, he died in the 35th of Edward 3d, leaving two daughters, Maud, who, though twice married, (first to Ralph, son and heir of Ralph Lord Stafford, and then to William Duke of Zealand,) died without issue ; and Blanch, who married John Duke of Ghent, youngest son of Edward 3d, who was thereupon created Duke of Lancaster;<sup>2</sup> and after the death of Maud enjoyed the earldom of Derby, Lincoln, and Leicester.

Edward the 3d granted letters patent to John Duke of Lancaster, (and subsequently of Aquitaine,<sup>3</sup>) bearing date the 7th of May, 1362, by the names of John Duke of Lancaster and Blanch his wife, that they and their heirs, and the men of their lands and fees formerly in the possession of Henry Duke of Lancaster, should have perpetual freedom from panage, passage, pavage, lastage, stallage, and other tolls throughout the kingdom of England, which Richard 2d confirmed by charter ; as also a separate jurisdiction over the lands, manors, fees, &c. of the Duchy, confirming to it its peculiar Court, in which all pleas and civil matters regarding the tenants were to be decided, together

*tatus predicti et duos burgeuses pro quolibet burgo infra comitatum predictum mittat ad parliamentum.*"—(*Rot. Pat. 25th Edward 3d, pars prima, m. 18.*)

<sup>2</sup> Chart. Rot. 36 Edw. 3d. pars unica, n. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Parl. 13 Richard 2d, n. 21, p. 673.



with right of Jura Regalia, &c. John of Ghent died in 1399, when his eldest son, Henry of Bolingbroke, became seized of the Duchy in right of his mother, the descendant and sole heiress of Edmund, first Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, son of Henry the 3d. On the deposition of Richard 2d, and Henry's elevation to the throne, he retained the dukedom of Lancaster and the earldoms of Hereford, Derby, Lincoln, and Leicester, with their immense possessions, merging their titles in the royal dignity. The dukedom of Lancaster, with its appendant honors, castles, manors, fees, and liberties, were confirmed to him and his heirs by Parliament, and by him annexed to the Crown, of which it continued to form part of the possessions during his reign and that of his immediate successors, Henry 5th and Henry 6th. On the 4th of November, 1461, Edward 4th, in the first year of his reign, with the advice and consent of Parliament, decreed that all castles, manors, domains, towns, villages, honors, lands, tenements, rents, services, fee-farms, military fees, advowsons, and hereditaments, with their appurtenances, of which Henry 6th, on the 3d of March, in the 39th year of his reign, or Henry 5th, in the first year of his reign, were in seisin, as possessions of the Duchy of Lancaster, and had annexed to the crown of England, should, from the 4th of March, 1461, (the day of his accession to the throne,) be separated from the hereditary possessions of the crown, and held in severalty of it

for ever: and that the Duchy Seal should be again consigned to the officers of the Duchy Court, and that the Chancellor and other officers belonging to the Duchy should exercise their separate jurisdiction over the manors, &c. of the Duchy, in as full and ample form as had been held and exercised by the Dukes of Lancaster at any former period. Letters patent, bearing date the 4th of January, 1465, were directed to the Bailiffs of Gumecestr', confirmatory of the privileges and acquittances of the tenants and inhabitants, as tenants of the Duchy, and of the jurisdiction of the Duchy over the manor, directing that all suits and pleas regarding the tenants should be brought and tried in the Duchy Court. The fee-farm rent of Godmanches-ter was, from this time, paid to the particular receiver of the Duchy, but continued to form part of the crown revenues until the 15th of Charles the 2d, when it was again alienated to Sir Edward Montague, knight, after his elevation to the peerage. Sir Edward had been a distinguished military commander under the parliamentary banners<sup>b</sup> during the civil wars, and subsequently joint High-Admiral of England; but who, observing the pusillanimity of Richard's Protectorate, and the national disposition for a limited monarchy, sufficiently influenced the fleet to declare for the Restoration. For this important service he was created by Charles 2d, on

<sup>b</sup> Burke's Peerage.

the 12th July, 1660, Baron Montague,<sup>c</sup> Viscount Hinchinbroke, and Earl of Sandwich; presented with the noble order of the garter;<sup>d</sup> and in 1663, farther recompensed with grants of fee-farm rents in the counties of Huntingdon,<sup>e</sup> Hertford, Norfolk, Essex, Bedford, Northampton, Suffolk, and Buckingham, amongst which was that of Godmanchester. To the receiver of whose descendant, John William, the seventh and present Earl, it continues to be paid.

The following decree contains a curious decision in the year 1286, in which the Bailiffs of Godmanchester appear tributary to the Sheriff of the county, for their view of Frank-pledge, and is the only contradiction on record to the men of Godmanchester then exercising their entire manorial rights. It is

<sup>c</sup> “Edward, created Baron Montague of St. Neots, Viscount Montague of Hinchinbroke, and Earl of Sandwich, 12th July, 1660. He was also M. of y<sup>e</sup> Wardrobe, Knight of y<sup>e</sup> Noble Order of y<sup>e</sup> Garter, and one of his Majestie's most Hon<sup>ble</sup> Privy Council, Captain General o' the narrow Seas, Vice-admiral of England. He married Jemima, da. of John Crew, of Stanes in Northamptonsh., by Jemima, da. and co. h. of Edw. Walgrave, of Lawford in Essex, Esq. He lost his life in a seafight against y<sup>e</sup> Dutch, 28 May, 1672, and lieth buried among y<sup>e</sup> kings in Westminster Abbey. Œtat. 47.”—*Sir Robert Cotton's Col. for Hunts. Brit. Mus.* 921, P. L. 76. G.

<sup>d</sup> Appointed by patent—“Master of the Game of Swanns in the River Thames.” 13 Carol. 2<sup>d</sup>.—*Rolls Court Records.*

<sup>e</sup> “3<sup>o</sup> die feb' Con' Edw<sup>o</sup>. Comiti Sandwich, divers feod firm. imppm. 3<sup>o</sup> Feb. 15<sup>o</sup> Car. 2<sup>d</sup>.—*Rolls Court Records.*

taken from the Placita de Quo Warranto in the Tower, which inquest took place under a commission instituted for the same objects as that which produced the Rotuli Hundredorum.<sup>1</sup>

IN A PLEA OF OUR LORD THE KING, IN THE NATURE OF A QUO WARRANTO, BEFORE JOHN DE METINGHAM AND THOMAS DE BELHOUS, JUSTICIARIES, TO THEM ASSIGNED, BY THE PRECEPT OF OUR LORD THE KING, ON THE MORROW OF THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL, IN THE 4TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF EDWARD 1ST.

Reginaldus fit Robti de Gomecestr' et Wifis Cticus balli de Gomecestr' p se et coitate ville p dce clam' hre p dcam villam ad feodi firmam ex dimissione dni J. Regis avi dni Regis nūc p cartam suā quam p ferūt et que testatr qd idem Rex dimisit manū suū de Gomecestre hominibz suis de Gomecestre p sexies viginti libri ponde et numero p annū ad feodi firmam tenend qm diu bn reddidint

Reginald, the son of Robert of Gomecestr', and William the Priest, Bailiffs of Gomecestr', for themselves and the commonalty of the said town, claim to hold the said town at fee-farm, by the demise of Lord John, late King, grandfather of our present Lord the King, by the Charter which he granted them, and which witnesses, that the said King demised his manor of Gomecestre to his men of Gomecestre for six twenty pounds a year weight and number, at fee-farm, to hold the same so long as they shall truly render the

Vide page 106.

firmam p̄dcam reddend̄ in  
scaccario ad duas terminū.

Et testat̄ qd iidem hoies  
b̄n red' p̄dcam firmam.

Ques est ab eis si h̄eant  
visum f̄nci plegii, d̄nt qd  
sic, et si aliquid p̄ p̄dco  
visu d̄nt qd non.

Et sup hoc Gilb̄tus de  
Thornton qui sequit̄ p̄  
Rege dicit et vic' similit̄<sup>9</sup>  
qd ip̄e capit viginti solidos  
p̄ annū p̄ visu f̄nci plegii  
et p̄decessores sui Vic' Hun-  
tedon' tempe suo similit̄  
cepunt p̄dcos vigiti solid̄  
de p̄dcis hominibz.

Et xij jur' de Hundro  
de Touleslund' d̄nt qd  
vic' ut baill̄s hundri die  
visus venit ad quemdam  
locū ubi hoies p̄dce ville  
debent tēse visum f̄nci  
plegii et iidem hoies p̄  
finem fcm statī solvūt vic'  
viginti solidos p̄ visu illo

said farm, paying it into the  
Exchequer at two stated  
periods. And it is proved  
before us that they have  
truly paid the same. It is  
demanded of them, whether  
they hold the view of Frank-  
pledge?—they answer, Yes:  
and if they render for the  
same?—to which they an-  
swer, No. On this Gilbert  
de Thornton, who followed  
for the King, said, and the  
Sheriff in like manner, that  
he had received twenty shil-  
lings per annum for the  
view of Frank-pledge, and  
that his predecessors, She-  
riffs for the county of Hun-  
tingdon, in their time, in  
like manner, received twen-  
ty shillings from the said  
men. And the 12 jurors  
for the Hundred of Tose-  
land say, that the Sheriff,  
as Bailiff of the Hundred,  
on the day of the view comes  
to a certain place, where the  
men of the said town hold  
the view of Frank-pledge,  
and that the said men im-  
mediately pay the said fine  
to the Sheriff of twenty  
shillings for their view,

et sic debnt et sic facere consuevnt tempibus retro actis.

Io ad iudiciu, &c.

Postea venerunt p̄dci Reginaldus et Willmus et finē fecunt p̄ p̄dico concelamento p̄ xx<sup>s</sup>.

Et recipiunt, &c.

and thus they ought and have been accustomed to do. Judgment was thereon given; after which the said Reginald and William came and paid the said fine for the said privilege, viz. 20 shillings.

In the same pleas may also be found the following no less curious record, which suggests the probability that the Sheriff of the county anciently held his tourn, in a separate Court of each of the four hundreds of which the county is composed; and that, as the custom can no longer be traced, the four Courts were soon after connected, and constitute what is now called the Sheriff's or County Court.

PLACITA DE QUO WARRANTO. P. 304.

Presentatū est p̄ xij de Touleslund qđ dñs Rex het et here potest quoddam impcamentū in Gomecestr' quod est antiquo dnico Corone sue in quodam loco qui vocat' le Pondfolde ante portas Prioris de M'ton' quod deservit omnibz distccionibz dni Regis in hundredo p̄dco.

It is presented by the Jury of the Hundred of Toseland, that the Lord the King has and ought to have a certain tourn in Gomecestr', which is of the ancient demesne of his crown, in a place called the Pondefolde, before the doors of the Prior of Merton, to preserve the rights of the Lord the King, in the hundred aforesaid.

Et testatū est p Vic' qd  
 dñs Rex est in seisa de  
 p̄dico impcamento.

Iō p̄ est Vic' qd manute-  
 neat inde Regem in seisa  
 sua, &c.

And it is witnessed by  
 the Sheriff, that the Lord  
 the King is in seisin of the  
 same—it is therefore for  
 the Sheriff to maintain the  
 King in his said seisin.

The manor having been demised from the Crown, together with all things belonging to the said manor, though the express nature of the manor is set forth—*antient demesne*, no royalties nor other claims than the fee-farm rent were reserved to the Crown; but the Court for the Hundred of Tose-land, in which it is situated, might at that time be held in Godmanchester, it being the most important place in the Hundred.

In surveying the documents contained in this Chapter, we find that the town of Godmanchester, from the year 1213 to 1604, though not properly speaking an incorporated Borough, had all the exemptions and exercised the privileges of one. The grant of the manor in fee farm merely incorporated the tenants, for the express object of securing to them the advantages of their farm, and empowering their Chief Officer to levy such charges on the land and houses as would enable him to pay the King's rent. The Charter of John, in general terms, conveyed to the Bailiffs, chosen by the inhabitants, all those manorial prerogatives which previously attached to the King's Bailiff or Collector: such as

holding customary courts—the right of escheats<sup>s</sup>—of deodands—and of amerciaments : and under the authority of this demise, these privileges were exercised. Neither in the Record of Domesday nor Charter of John, does the word Borough occur ; in both the term Manor is used : and though in the Charter it is not said *to our men of Gumecestr' and their heirs*, it is implied by the words “ to hold of us and our heirs ;” and, consequently, intended that the devisees should have perpetual succession by the name of *the men of Gumecestr'*. The insepimuses of Edward the 1st and 3d confirm the contract with the men of Gumecestr' by the Charters of those Monarchs, and by the inquest in 1286 ; and in other parts of this work, we find them holding courts by their Bailiffs, and exercising other manorial rights. The men of Gumecestr' were the inhabitants generally at the time of the original grant ; but immediately after the grant of the manor to the then tenants, a distinction was set up between those who were admitted to the denizenship of the town, and those who accidentally sojourned there ; and which distinction is in the Charter of Richard 2d (No. 4), well defined, by the words *clergy, inhabitants, travellers, and strangers*, no person being then considered the inhabitant of a town, or competent

<sup>s</sup> In Cole's voluminous MS. Escheats, Brit. Mus. not a single instance is recorded of an escheat being claimed by the Crown from Godmanchester ; and in the Appendix, No. 2, p. n, (7th of Edward 1st) it is stated, that no escheats in the manor fall to the Crown.



to hold estate in it, until he had taken the oaths of allegiance, and submission to the constituted authorities. In the inquest before recited (p.117), in the reign of Edward 1st, it was demanded of the Bailiffs, whether they held the view of Frank-pledge? to which they answered, Yes ; which view of Frank-pledge was a Court held at stated periods by the Sheriffs of counties, that the freemen of the country might be bound to their allegiance by the pledges of their neighbours, and thus immediately found upon any accusation being preferred against them. Every free-born man, at the age of 14,<sup>h</sup> except religious persons, knights and their eldest sons, was called upon to attend these courts, and there give security for his truth and behaviour to the King and his subjects, or to be imprisoned, so that neighbours usually became bound for each other, and thus were responsible for their mutual appearance on any transgressions having been committed ; and in the event of their not being found, the charge was answered by the pledges of the accused.—Where separate jurisdictions existed, as in boroughs and manors, separate views of Frank-pledge were held ; and though by this inquest, in 1286, the Sheriff demanded of the Bailiffs of Godmanchester twenty shillings as his perquisites<sup>1</sup> at the view,

<sup>h</sup> Coke.

<sup>1</sup> “ According to the old common law,” says Lord Coke, “ the Bishop with the Sheriffe did goe in circuit twice every yeare, by every hundred within the county, which was called his tour or tourn, which signifieth a circuit or perambulation,” and had certain

which the Jurors awarded, it was an arbitrary exaction on his part,<sup>1</sup> and subsequently resisted; perhaps upon the principle of the 42d chap. of the 2d great Charter of Henry 3d, which relates to the view of Frank-pledge, wherein it is expressly commanded, "that the Sheriff seek no occasions;" and this interference of the Sheriff with the Frank-pledge of a manor having its own jurisdictions, was evidently *seeking occasions*. This extortion was decided by the Duchy Court as being altogether illegal, and a decree to that effect was sanctioned by the letters patent of Edward 4th.<sup>k</sup>

By the statute law, every man now answers for himself in criminal cases, so that the view of Frank-pledge has virtually ceased, and the customary court of the Lord, called the Court Leet, supersedes it altogether, for therein the inhabitants of boroughs and manors have to answer to their names twice yearly, or submit to a fine, when americiaments are levied upon them by the Jury for encroachments upon the King's or public rights. The Court Leet is a very antient court, being of Saxon origin, and enquires into all offences under high treason;

fees; but grants of manors in fee-farm, and charters of incorporation to towns and boroughs, excluded the Sheriff from holding his tourn in those places.

<sup>1</sup> This suggestion is sanctioned by the extortions of Sheriffs in those times.—*Vide Reeve's Hist. of English Saxon Law.*

<sup>k</sup> Vide pleadings and decrees in the Duchy Court relative to Godmanchester, fol. 171, b. Rot. 7, No. 12.

but such as are punishable with loss of life are only presentable here, and certified over to the Justices of Assize. The usual methods of punishment in this court are by fines<sup>1</sup> and amerciaments<sup>m</sup>—the former assessed by the Steward, and the latter by the Jury, being twelve customary freeholders or tenants.

The Lord of the Leet, or view of Frank-pledge, formerly kept a pillory and stocks<sup>n</sup>, in good repair, in his liberty, for the punishment and terror of the disorderly; there is a quaint document on record of the latter having been used for this purpose in 1634 :

“ Gumecester—Ad Visum Franci Plegii itm tent in festo  
Sci Michis anno viij. Caroli R.

“ It being proved upon the oath of M<sup>o</sup>gret Conyers and others taken before the Bailiffs (that wheras the Bailiffs by their constitutions had cast out gleanes and peaze out of the houses of divers ill-disposed psons that lay at the backs of their chimneys and in other places of ther houses in great daunger of firing both ther houses and ther neighbours) that Dorothe Walpoole widowe did take a fire stick in her hand and swore by God's blood she would set the gleanes and peaze the Bailiffs had cast out of her house on fire, and bid a red plague of God light upon the

<sup>1</sup> Fines are punishments or penalties fixed by express statutes.

<sup>m</sup> Amerciaments are fines arbitrarily imposed; and if grievous or vexatious, a release may be sued by an ancient writ, called “ *Moderata Misericordia*.”

<sup>n</sup> Vide also Appendix, No 2, k.

Bailiffes and all that came with them and that they might rotte like dewe against the sunne, w<sup>ch</sup> fire stick being snatched out of her hand she took up another and swore she would set her house on fire were it not for William Maile's house: for w<sup>ch</sup> her disorder Mr. Bailiffes sent her to the stockes from whence she was by aurtherity sent to the house of correccōn and ther punished according to her deserts and to the terror of all other lewde queanes not conformable to good gouvernement."

*Vide Stock Book, No. 5.*

Another baronial court in Godmanchester is called a Court of Pleas,<sup>o</sup> held every three weeks, and which was usually attached to manors<sup>p</sup> and baronies. The Judges of this court are the two Bailiffs for the time being, aided by three of the Assistants, who have notice served upon them in turn by the Sub-bailiff to that effect, and three of the twelve Suitors or Jurymen appointed at the Leet. This form of court appears to have been an uninterrupted usage from the 35th of Elizabeth to the present time.

<sup>o</sup> The general plan of the Anglo-Norman Government was, that the Court of Barony was appointed to decide such controversies as arose between the several vassals or subjects of the same barony.—*Hume*, vol. ii. p. 107, 4to. ed. 1762.

<sup>p</sup> Those only are said to be legally considered manors which can be proved to have existed before the passing of the statute "Quia Emptores," 18th Edw. 1st, A. D. 1290. This act was occasioned by the great subdivision of property about that time, and by which the number of inferior manors was so increased, that almost every little farm of 90 or 100 acres became a manor and held its courts.—*Watson*, p. 576.

Gumecester aſs } Curia Dñe Regine tent iſm coram  
 Godmancheſter } Richardo Naillour et Xtofer Sandon  
 1592.

For as muche as ther haithen ben dyvers and sundrye controversies wthin this Courte aboute the Triall of Actions of Trespas and other actions for yt yt haithen not ben knowen certayne who shoulde be ye bourgers by whom the said actions oughte (accordinge too ye aunciente usage heretofore had) to have Triall yt ys therfore at this Courte ordered by Mr. Bailiffes and twelve men and Comltie yt Mr. Bailiffs for their tyme beinge, three of the twelve men who shal be sewters of the Courte when anye cawse shal be tried and three or foure more or les of thos wh have ben Bailiffs, shal be the bourgers by whom everye action shal be ordered and determined wh hertofore haithen ben usuall to be tryed by the bourgers.

In this court pleas of trespass are enquired into—writs of right close prosecuted—recoveries suffered—freedoms of tenancy and seisin of property registered. The admission of strangers to the freedom of Godmanchester appears at first to have been by the consent of the whole commonalty, *per assensum totius comitatis*, who thus became answerable for each other; but by our extracts from the Court Rolls, 21st and 22d Edward 4th, viz. in the years 1481 and 1482, two pledges only were then taken, either or both of which were answerable for the trespasser. In the reign of Henry 7th, the custom of requiring pledges was discontinued, and from that period until the men of Gumecestr' were raised into a body politic, by their charter of 1604, free-

doms were generally granted by the special favour of the whole community (*ex speciali gra toti coitas*).<sup>1</sup>

The Charter of Richard the 2d gave great additional weight to the claims and exemptions of the men of Gumecestre; yet, notwithstanding that charter, they were frequently annoyed by the demand of tolls, it being urged that Godmanchester was not of the antient demesne of the kings of England, but merely represented to be so; when Henry the 4th, at the petition of the men of the manor of Godmanchester, certified to the fact, by letters patent, on the 21st day of May, 1401.<sup>2</sup> The impost of tolls still continued to be claimed from them; and at length, in the 5th year of Elizabeth, one Richard Anderson, bailiff of Peterborough, detained a truss of clothes belonging to Robert Bird Taylor, of Godmanchester, for stallage in Peterborough fair; and Nicholas Fox, bailiff of the town of Harborough, seized the cattle of Thomas Tryce, of Godmanchester, for tolls in his fair, on which it was resolved by the tenants of Godmanchester to bring their action against the parties in the Duchy Court. The verdicts recorded in these cases, exonerating them from tolls, were confirmed by the letters patent of Elizabeth, with the recital of which we shall conclude this Chapter.

<sup>1</sup> See various forms of admission.—Appendix, No. 3.

<sup>2</sup> “A<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>e</sup>. Henric 4.—Exemplificatio libri de Domesday pro manerio de Godmanchester, Mem. 6.”—*Patent Rolls in the Tower*.

EXEMPLIFICAÇON FOR Y<sup>e</sup> MEN AND TENNANTS OF GOD-  
MANCHESTER TO BE FREED FROM TOLL, &c. IN Y<sup>e</sup>  
TOWNES OF PETERBOROUGH AND HARBOROUGH. ANNO  
ELIZ. QUINTO.

An. 5th. Regni } Elizabeth dei gra<sup>o</sup> Angliæ Franciæ et  
Eliz. A.D. 1563. } Hiberniæ Regina fidei Defensor, &c.  
Omnibus ad quos presentes ltra nostra pvenerint Saltem  
Inspeximus tenorem cujusdam decreti sive recordi in  
Camar<sup>o</sup> Ducat nostri Lancast<sup>o</sup> apud Westminst' inter re-  
corda ejusdem Ducat iðm remaneñ et existeñ in hæc  
Verba. Termino Pascha Anno Regni Regina Elizabetha  
quinto.

Whereas the men and tennants of y<sup>e</sup> towneshipp and  
mann<sup>r</sup> of Godmanch<sup>r</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> county of Huntington parcell  
of y<sup>e</sup> possessions of y<sup>e</sup> Duchey of Lancast<sup>r</sup> and especially  
one Rob<sup>t</sup> Bird of y<sup>e</sup> said towne taylour, and Thos. Trice of  
y<sup>e</sup> same towne, exhibited their bill of complaint into this  
Cor<sup>t</sup> declaring by y<sup>e</sup> same y<sup>t</sup> where y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> towne and mann<sup>r</sup>  
of Godmanchester is antient demayne as mainfestly ap-  
peareth as well by y<sup>e</sup> booke of Doomesday as by other y<sup>e</sup>  
Queen her Highnesses records remaining in her Court of  
Exchequer at Westminst and that by reason thereof y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup>  
men tennants and inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> said towne ought to be  
discharged free and quite of for and from y<sup>e</sup> payment of  
any toll or custome in any fair markett citty burrough and  
elsewhere w<sup>th</sup>in y<sup>e</sup> realme of England for any goods or  
cattels by them bought or sold—and also that where y<sup>e</sup>  
s<sup>d</sup> men of Godmanchester ought to be free and quite  
of for and from y<sup>e</sup> paym<sup>t</sup> of any toll custome pannage  
passage picage lastage stallage tallage carriage pesage  
terrage in any fair markett cittey burrough or elsewhere  
w<sup>th</sup>in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> realme as by divers and sondry charters and  
grants thereof made by divers of the Queen her Highnesses

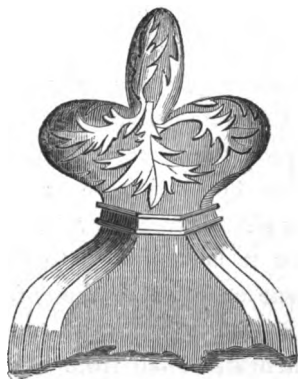
most noble progenitors Kings of this realme and confirmed by her Highness ready to be shewed in this honorable Co<sup>r</sup>t more at large it did and may appeare—And y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> men and tennants by force of their s<sup>d</sup> tenure and grantes, tyme out of minde of any man to y<sup>e</sup> contrary have ben freed and quite from y<sup>e</sup> payment of any toll custome and other paym<sup>ts</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> according to the nature of there s<sup>d</sup> tenure and purporte and effect of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> grantes untill now of late y<sup>t</sup> one Richard Anderson, bayliffe of y<sup>e</sup> burroughe of Peterburrough in y<sup>e</sup> county of Northampton at y<sup>e</sup> last Fayer there holden did demand of y<sup>e</sup> said Bird to pay toll custome and stallage and for y<sup>t</sup> he refused the s<sup>d</sup> Anderson tooke a distress and detained it. And y<sup>t</sup> afterwards at Harburrough at y<sup>e</sup> last fayer there holden aboute Michealmas then last past one Nich<sup>s</sup> Fox bayliffe of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> towne of Harburrough in y<sup>e</sup> county of Lycester did likewise demand of y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> Tho. Tryce toll and custome for certaine cattell by him then and there bought and would not suffer him to pass unless he would pay or pawne for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> toll soe demanded. And y<sup>t</sup> thereupon y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Tryce delivered in pawne to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Fox a pawne in gold and y<sup>t</sup> byreason of those demandes and distresses soe taken they y<sup>e</sup> said complain<sup>ts</sup> had not only bēn greatly troubled vexed and hindered in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> faires townes and marketts but were like to have a continuall vexacōn and wronge offered and done to them from tyme to tyme to there greate damage and thereupon prayed redress ag<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Anderson and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Fox, as by y<sup>e</sup> same bill of complaint remaining of record in this honorable Co<sup>r</sup>t doth and may appear. Whereunto y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Anderson and Nich<sup>s</sup>. Fox appeared and made generall answer and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> men and tenants and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Bird and Tryce replied and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Anderson and Fox genially rejoined and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> ptyes ware at issue and a comission was thereupon awarded at y<sup>e</sup> request of



y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> men and tennants of Godmanchester for y<sup>e</sup> tryall of y<sup>e</sup> contentes in there s<sup>d</sup> bill of comp<sup>te</sup>. Whereupon divers deposi<sup>ti</sup>ōns were taken and orderly certified into y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Co<sup>rt</sup> of Duchey Chamber and exemplifica<sup>ti</sup>ōns thereof granted and divers dayes of hearing appointed and y<sup>e</sup> matter oppenlie maturely and delib<sup>er</sup>ly heard and fully understood befor y<sup>e</sup> Right hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir Ambrose Cave Knight Chancellor of y<sup>e</sup> said Co<sup>rt</sup> and others y<sup>e</sup> counsell of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Co<sup>rt</sup> upon y<sup>e</sup> hearing of wh<sup>h</sup> s<sup>d</sup> matter forasmuch as it manifestly appeared to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Chancellor and counsell of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Co<sup>rt</sup> by y<sup>e</sup> hearing of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> deposi<sup>ti</sup>ōns y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Anderson tooke by way of distress one truss of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Birde and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Nick. Fox received of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Tryce a French crowne of six shillings in pawne for y<sup>e</sup> toll of y<sup>e</sup> cattell in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> bill of complaint mentioned. And farther as well by y<sup>e</sup> hearing of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> deposi<sup>ti</sup>ōns as alsoe by y<sup>e</sup> viewe and sight of sundry charters and grants made by sundry of y<sup>e</sup> Queen her Highness progenitors Kings of England as well by authoritie of Parliament as otherwise unto y<sup>e</sup> Dukes of Lancaster and there heires and unto there tennants and there successors and from tyme to tyme confirmed as well by o<sup>r</sup> s<sup>d</sup> so<sup>ve</sup>aigne lady y<sup>e</sup> Queens Ma<sup>ty</sup> y<sup>t</sup> now is as also by others of her most noble progenitors Kings of this realme unto y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Dukes of Lancaster and there heires and unto there tennants and there successors that all and every the tennants of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Dukes and of there heires and y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> men and tennants of Godmanchester and there successors should and ought to goe and pass in any fayer markett and other place free and discharged from y<sup>e</sup> paym<sup>t</sup> of any toll custome pannage passage pickage lastage stallage carriage and terrage—and farther y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> towne and mann<sup>r</sup> of Godmanchester of longe tyme heretofore hath ben and now yet still is parcell of y<sup>e</sup> poss<sup>ess</sup>ōns of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Duchey of Lancaster and y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> fran-

chizes liberties privileges and immunities have ben by y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Dukes unto y<sup>e</sup> men and tennants of Godmanchester and there successors by speciall words granted and confirmed. And also likewise especially and namely granted by charter unto y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> men and tennants of Godmanchester and there successors by sundry other charters made by sundry of y<sup>e</sup> Queens Highness s<sup>d</sup> progenitors under y<sup>e</sup> great seall of England and shewed to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Chancellor and counsell of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Co<sup>r</sup>t upon y<sup>e</sup> hearing of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> matter. And furthermore for y<sup>t</sup> it evidently appeared to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Chancellor and counsell of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Co<sup>r</sup>t upon y<sup>e</sup> hearing of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> matter as well by sundry certificates, under y<sup>e</sup> seall of y<sup>e</sup> Queens Highness Co<sup>r</sup>t of Exchequer as by other sundry instruments and evidences to them then and there shewed that the saide towne of Godmanchester is antient demeane by reason whereof the inhabitants w<sup>th</sup>in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> towne ought to goe and pass free and quite as is afores<sup>d</sup> of and from all manner of toll custome pannage passage pickage lastage stallage carriage and terrage in all marketts fayers marts and other places for there goods and marchandizes. It is therefore this present tearme of Easter in y<sup>e</sup> fifth yeare of o<sup>r</sup> s<sup>d</sup> so<sup>v</sup>aigne Lady Queen Elizabeth by y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Chancell<sup>r</sup> and counsell of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Co<sup>r</sup>t ordered and decreed y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup>. Anderson shall on this side y<sup>e</sup> feaste of y<sup>e</sup> Nativitye of St. John Baptiste next coming deliver or cause to be delivered unto y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Byrde the s<sup>d</sup> truss soe by him taken in name of a distress or the value thereof : And likewise that the said Nich<sup>s</sup>. Fox shall before the said feast in like manner deliver or cause to be delivered to the s<sup>d</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Tryce y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> French crowne or y<sup>e</sup> value thereof. And furthermore y<sup>t</sup> all and singular y<sup>e</sup> men and tennants of y<sup>e</sup> said towne of Godmanchester shall from henceforth for ever pass and repass goe and come w<sup>th</sup> there goods and chattells and marchandizes in by and through y<sup>e</sup> marketts

fayers boundes marts and libertyes of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> townes of Peterborough and Harborough and every of them w<sup>th</sup>out any toll custome or other exaction or payment for y<sup>e</sup> goods cattells and marchandizes of them or of any of them to be hereafter asked demanded or taken. And furthermore it is likewise ordered and decreed by y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Chancell<sup>r</sup> and councell y<sup>t</sup> the s<sup>d</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Anderson shall before y<sup>e</sup> Feast of St. John Baptist next coming pay unto y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Byrde for his costs and charges in this sute sustayned y<sup>e</sup> sum of thirteen shillings and fower-pence. And likewise y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Nick. Fox shall in like manner pay unto y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup>. Tryce and before y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> day thirteen shillings and fower-pence for his costs and charges in this sute by him sustayned.—Nos autem tenorem decreti sive record<sup>i</sup> predi<sup>c</sup>t ad instantiam tenenci<sup>u</sup> et inhabit<sup>u</sup> de Godmanchester duximus exemplific<sup>a</sup>m. In cujus rei testimonium has ltras nostras fieri fecimus patentes dat apud pala<sup>c</sup>m n<sup>u</sup>rum Westminst sub Sigillo ducat Lancastr<sup>i</sup> predi<sup>c</sup>t vicessimo quarto die Maii Anno Regni nostri quinto.



## CHAPTER VII.

CHARTER OF JAMES I.<sup>a</sup> A.D. 1604.

AMES, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these present Letters shall come—Greeting.

WHEREAS our Town of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, in our county of Huntingdon, is of the ancient

Preamble.

demense of our kingdom of England, and also is an ancient and populous town, and the men and inhabitants of the said town are chiefly employed in agriculture, which is of the greatest importance to the Commonwealth; and whereas in the said town, from time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, divers liberties, franchises, immunities, and pre-eminences, have been used and enjoyed, by reason and pretext, as well of divers prescriptions and customs in the said town used and established, as also by the authority of divers letters patent of our predecessors,

<sup>a</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 8.

Kings and Queens of England,—And whereas our beloved subjects, the men and inhabitants of the said town, have humbly besought us to this effect, that we would be willing to shew and extend to the said men and inhabitants of the said town, our royal grace and favour, and that we for the better regimen, government, and improvement of the said town, would graciously make, reduce, and create the said men and inhabitants of the said town into one body corporate and politic, by the name of the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon, by our letters patent, in such manner as to us shall seem most expedient :

And that the aforesaid town may hereafter for ever be and remain a free borough of peace and quietness, to the restraint and terror of the evil and reward of the good, and that our peace and the due observance of our laws may be the better kept and preserved, and hoping that if the men and inhabitants of the said town and their successors, from this our more ample grant, are enabled to enjoy such liberties and privileges, then and in such case they will feel themselves more especially bound to show and discharge all duty and service which they may be able to render to us and our heirs—We, of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere

Commence-  
ment of Grant. motion, will, ordain, constitute, declare, and grant, and by these presents for ourselves, our heirs and successors, will, ordain, constitute, declare, and grant, that the aforesaid town of Gumecester, otherwise

Constituted  
a Free Bo-  
rough. Godmanchester, shall be a free borough in itself; and that the men and inhabitants of the said town and their successors are and shall be in future for ever, by virtue of these presents, one body corporate and politic in deed, fact, and name—by the

name of the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon : And we erect, make, ordain,

Made body corporate and politic by the name of Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty. constitute, confirm, and declare them, by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, by the name of the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon, one

body corporate and politic in fact, deed, and name, really and fully, and that they by the said name shall have perpetual succession, and that they by the name of the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon, are and shall be in future for ever, persons competent and qualified by law to have, acquire, receive,

With power to hold lands, &c. and possess manors, lands, tenements, liberties, privileges, jurisdictions, franchises, and hereditaments of whatsoever nature, quality, or kind

they may be, to themselves and their successors in fee and perpetuity, or for the term of a year or years, or in any other manner whatsoever : and also goods and chattels, and any other description of property of whatsoever kind, name, nature, quality, or species it may be : and also to give, grant, let, alienate, assign, and dispose of lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and that all and every of their acts and deeds shall be made and executed in the aforesaid name. And that by the said name of the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon, they shall and may be

To plead, &c. able to plead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered, to defend and be defended, in any courts, townships, and places, before any judges, justices, and other persons and officers of us our

heirs and successors in all and singular actions, pleas, suits, complaints, causes, matters and demands of whatsoever kind, name, nature, quality, or character they are or may be, in as ample manner and form as any other of our liege people of England, persons able and qualified by law, or as any other body corporate and politic within our kingdom of England are able to have, acquire, receive, possess, enjoy, retain, give, grant, let, alienate, assign, and dispose, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, perform, permit, or execute.

And that the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the aforesaid borough, may have a Common Seal to ratify transactions and negociations for themselves and their successors; and that it may and shall be fully lawful for the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty, and their successors, at their pleasure, from time to time, to break, change, and remodel their seal, as shall to them seem most expedient.

Two Bailiffs. And furthermore we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty, and their successors, that from time to time for ever there may and shall be in the aforesaid borough two of the most honest and discreet men of the said borough chosen, as is hereafter in these presents expressed, who shall be and be called Bailiffs of the aforesaid borough: and that in like manner there may and shall be in the aforesaid borough

And twelve Assistants to form a Common Council. twelve others of the most honest and discreet Burgesses of the said borough, chosen as is hereafter in these presents expressed, who shall be and be called Assistants of the said borough, which two Bailiffs and twelve Assistants for the time being shall be of the Common Council of the said borough; and that the aforesaid twelve Assistants for the time being shall

be from time to time aiding and assisting the Bailiffs of the said borough for the time being, in all transactions, negotiations, and matters touching or concerning the said borough.

With power  
to make By-  
laws, &c.

And further we will, and by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that the Bailiffs and Assistants of the borough aforesaid, for the time being, or the major part of them, of which the Bailiffs of the borough aforesaid for the time being we will shall be two, upon a public summons specially made, and thereon congregated together, may have and shall have full power and authority to form, constitute, ordain, and make from time to time such reasonable laws, statutes, constitutions, decrees, and ordinances in writing, as shall appear to them or the greater part of them, (of which the Bailiffs of the aforesaid borough for the time being we will shall be two,) good, wholesome, useful, honest, and necessary, as shall seem meet in their discretion, for the good regulation and government of the aforesaid borough, and of all and singular officers, ministers, artificers, inhabitants, and residents whatsoever within the aforesaid borough, and the liberties of the same for the time being : and for the declaration after what manner and order the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty, and all and singular officers, ministers, burgesses, artificers, inhabitants, and residents of the borough aforesaid for the time being, in their offices, functions, ministrations, artifices, and negotiations within the said borough and liberties, and the precincts of the same for the time being, should behave, bear, and comport themselves for the greatest public good, general welfare, and best regulation of the aforesaid borough, and the victualling of the

For the public  
good.



said borough, and all other things and matters whatsoever in any way affecting or concerning the borough aforesaid. And that the said Bailiffs and Assistants of the aforesaid borough for the time being, or the major part of them, of which the said Bailiffs of the aforesaid borough for the time being we will shall be two, as often as such laws, institutions, decrees, ordinances, and constitutions are made, formed, ordained, or resolved upon in manner aforesaid, and such pains, punishments, and penalties, either by imprisonment of body, or by fines and amerciaments, or by either or both of them towards and upon all offenders against the said laws, statutes, ordinances, and constitutions, or any or either of them, which the said Bailiffs and Assistants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them, of which the Bailiffs of the aforesaid borough for the time being we will shall be two, shall hereafter see fit to make, ordain, limit, and provide, as necessary, meet, and requisite for the observance of the said laws, ordinances, and constitutions: the said fines and amerciaments they may and shall have to the use of the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty, and their successors, without any hindrance of our heirs or successors, and without any let or molestation of us, our heirs or successors, or any officer or officers, or other ministers of us, our heirs or successors, and without rendering thereof any account to us, our heirs or successors. All and singular which laws and constitutions, made as aforesaid, we will shall be observed under the penalties in them contained, so that the laws, ordinances, constitutions, imprisonments, fines, and amerciaments are reasonable, and not contrary or repugnant to the laws, statutes, customs, or ordinances of our kingdom of England.

Which are to  
to be obeyed  
under the pe-  
nalties they  
contain.

Two first or  
modern Bail-  
iffs.

And for the better execution of this our will and grant, we assign, nominate, create, constitute, and make, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, we assign, nominate, create, constitute, and make, our well-beloved John Peate and Henry Stevenson to become our first and modern Bailiffs of the aforesaid borough, willing that the said John Peate and Henry Stevenson shall be and continue in the office of Bailiff of the aforesaid borough from the date of these presents to the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel next ensuing, and from thence until two other Burgesses of the borough aforesaid shall be in like manner duly elected and sworn into their offices according to the ordinances and provisions in these presents hereafter set forth and declared, provided the said John and Henry so long shall live.

Twelve first  
or modern  
Assistants.

We also assign, nominate, and constitute, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we assign, nominate, and constitute, our well-beloved Richard Shute, Richard Naylour, Jasper Tryce, John Hearne, Richard Campynet, Robert Tryce, gentlemen, Henry Mayle, sen., John Robyns, Robert Vinter, Samuel Pount, William Smyth, and William Brabyn, to become and be our first and modern twelve Assistants of the Borough aforesaid, to continue in the said offices during their lives, unless in the mean time, for bad administration or evil conduct on their part, or any other reasonable cause, by the Bailiffs and Assistants of the said borough for the time being, or the greater part of them, of which the Bailiffs of the said borough for the time being we will shall be two, they are amoved, or any one or more of them shall be amoved.

Two Bailiffs  
to be elected  
annually.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we give and

grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that the aforesaid Bailiffs and twelve Assistants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the greater part of them, of which the said Bailiffs for the time being we will shall be two, from time to time and at all times hereafter, may have and shall have power and authority annually and every year for ever, at the Court next before the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, then and there to be held, to choose and nominate, and that they may and shall be able to choose and nominate, two of the most honest and discreet Burgesses of the aforesaid borough, who shall be Bailiffs of the borough aforesaid for one entire year, from the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel then next ensuing; and that they, after having been so chosen and nominated into the office of Bailiffs of the aforesaid borough, before they are admitted to execute the said office, shall take a corporal oath before the last Bailiffs, their predecessors, the Recorder, or his Deputy, the Steward, or so many of them as shall be there assembled, for the good, well, and faithful discharge of their office, in all duties concerning the same: and after having in such manner taken the said oath, they may and shall be able, and either of them may and shall be able, to execute the aforesaid office of Bailiff for one entire year.

Bailiffs dying,  
others to be  
chosen.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that if it shall chance that the Bailiffs of the borough aforesaid and their successors, or either of them, at any time within one year after they have been so elected and sworn, or either of them has been so elected and sworn, into the office of Bailiffs or Bailiff of the borough aforesaid, as aforesaid,

shall die, or be amoved from office, that then and so often it is and shall be lawful for the Assistants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the greater part of them, to choose and appoint one other or two other of the Burgesses of the aforesaid borough, to be Bailiff or Bailiffs of the aforesaid borough, according to the ordinances and provisions above declared in these presents, and according to the use and custom heretofore there observed ; and that he or they so elected into the said office of Bailiff or Bailiffs of the borough aforesaid may have and exercise his or their said office during the residue of the said year, first taking a corporal oath in manner aforesaid, and thus as often as circumstances may require.

Assistants dying, others to be chosen. And further we will, that whensoever it shall happen that any one or more of the aforesaid twelve Assistants of the borough aforesaid shall die, or for any reasonable cause be amoved from the office of Assistant of the borough ; which Assistants, or any one or more of them, for evil practices in their office, we will shall be amoved at the discretion of the Bailiffs and Assistants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the greater part of them ; that then and so often it is and shall be lawful for the said Bailiffs and Assistants of the borough aforesaid continuing and remaining, or the greater part of them, to choose, nominate, and make one or more of the burgesses and inhabitants of the aforesaid borough, in the place or places of him or them, Assistant or Assistants of the borough, so chancing to die or be amoved, for the filling up of the aforesaid number of twelve Assistants, and that he or they as aforesaid so chosen and elected to the said office of Assistant or Assistants of the aforesaid borough, having taken a corporal oath before the Bailiffs and the other Assistants of the aforesaid borough, the Recorder, or his Deputy, and the

Steward of the borough, or so many of them as are present, for the true and faithful discharge of their office, may and shall be of the number of the aforesaid twelve Assistants, and thus from time to time as often as circumstances require.

John Rosse,  
first Recorder.

And further we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid and their successors, that they and their successors may and shall have in the borough aforesaid one discreet man, learned in the laws of England, in manner hereafter in these presents expressed, chosen and nominated, who shall be and be called Recorder of the Borough aforesaid. And we assign, constitute, and make, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we assign, nominate, ordain, constitute, and make, our beloved John Rosse, Esq. learned in the laws of England, to become and be our first and modern Recorder of the borough aforesaid, to continue in the said office during the natural life of the said John Rosse : and that from time to time, and at all times after the death of the aforesaid John Rosse, the Bailiffs and Assistants of the said borough, or the greater part of them, of which the Bailiffs of the borough aforesaid for the time being we will shall be two, may and shall be able to choose, nominate, and appoint one other discreet man, learned in the laws of England, Recorder of the aforesaid borough, and that he who is thus chosen, appointed, and nominated Recorder of the borough aforesaid after the death of the said John Rosse, shall and may be able to exercise and enjoy his office of Recorder of the borough aforesaid during the good pleasure of the aforesaid Bailiffs and Assistants of the borough aforesaid, or the greater part of them, of which the Bailiffs of the borough afore-

Future Recorders removable at discretion.

said for the time being we will shall be two, or until some other recorder of the Borough aforesaid shall be in like manner elected, appointed, and sworn into his office.

And further of our more ample and special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid and their successors, that they and their successors for ever may and shall have one discreet and proper man, in manner in these presents hereafter expressed, chosen, and nominated, who shall be and be called *Comunis Clicus*—in English, the *Towne Clarke* of the borough aforesaid; and which Town Clerk of the Borough aforesaid, so elected and nominated, before he is admitted to execute the said office, shall take a corporal oath before the Bailiffs and Assistants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or so many of them as are present, truly and faithfully to execute the said office of Town Clerk of the borough aforesaid, according to his skill in all things relating to the said office. And after having taken such oath as aforesaid, he may exercise and perform the said office of Town Clerk in the borough aforesaid. And we assign, nominate, constitute, and make, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we assign, nominate, constitute, and make, our beloved Henry Crofte to become and be our first and modern Town Clerk of the borough aforesaid, to continue in the said office during the life of the said Henry Crofte, unless for reasonable causes he is amoved: and that after the death of the said Henry Crofte, or his amotion as aforesaid, from time to time, and at all times, at the good will and discretion of the aforesaid Bailiffs and Assistants of the borough aforesaid, (or the greater part of them,) of

Town Clerk  
to be sworn  
and remova-  
ble at plea-  
sure.

Henry Crofte  
first Town  
Clerk.

which the Bailiffs for the time being we will shall be two, they shall and may be able from time to time to choose, nominate, appoint, and make one other fit and proper person Town Clerk of the borough aforesaid: and that he who, as aforesaid, shall be chosen, appointed, and nominated Town Clerk of the borough aforesaid, may and shall be able to have, execute, and enjoy the said office during the good pleasure of the Bailiffs and Assistants of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or the greater part of them, of which we will that the Bailiffs for the time being shall be two, first taking a corporal oath as aforesaid, for the true and faithful discharge of his office.

A Fair or  
Mart, and  
Court of Pie  
Powder.

And further we will, and by these presents grant, for us, our heirs and successors, to the above nominated Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid and their successors, that they and their successors may have, hold, and keep, and they shall and may be able to have, hold, and keep in the borough aforesaid, annually for ever, a Fair or Mart, to be held and commence on the Tuesday in Easter week every year for ever, and to continue through the whole of that day and through the one day next ensuing; together with a Court of Pie Powder, to be held during the time of the said Fair or Mart, with all liberties and free customs, tolls, stallage, picage, fines, amerciements, and all other profits, advantages, and emoluments whatsoever appertaining, arising out of or contingent to the said Fair, Mart, and Court of Pie Powder, together with all other free customs and liberties whatsoever accruing or belonging to such Fair, Mart, and Court of Pie Powder, as far as heretofore has been enjoyed by any other of our boroughs; provided that the aforesaid Fair or Mart is not to the injury of any other Fair or Mart immediately adjoining.

Famous for  
husbandry.

And as we are credibly informed that our aforesaid borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, consists altogether, or for the most part, of agriculture and husbandry, and also that consequently the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the said borough, use horses, called *stone-horses*, for the ploughing and cultivation of their lands, which said horses, called stone-horses, are less proper and fit for journeys; and whereas a certain officer, called a *Standing Post*, constantly resides and abides in our town of Huntingdon, near the said borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, which said officer, called the *Standing Post*, and many other of our subjects, inhabitants within the said town of Huntingdon, from time to time, and at all times, keep and have certain horses for travelling, called hackneys, to lett to hire, which said hackneys are sufficiently able to execute and perform any expeditions and journeys from time to time for our service—We, being unwilling that the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the said borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, should be hindered and molested in the aforesaid ploughing and cultivation of their lands, will, ordain, and grant, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, We will, ordain, and grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the aforesaid borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, and their successors, that their horses, called *stone horses*, from time to time used and employed in the ploughing and cultivation of their lands, and also *their other horses, mares, and geldings* employed in agriculture, and occupied in ploughing and tillage, and which are less fit and proper for travelling, hereafter for ever shall not be taken, nor shall any one of them be taken

Stone Horses,  
Mares, and  
Geldings, ex-  
empt from  
the King's  
service.



from their ploughs or other work in or about agriculture or husbandry, for any service for us, our heirs or successors, in any journeys or expeditions of us, our heirs or successors, but from all such service of us, our heirs and successors, they shall be for ever exempt, exonerated, and freed, any statute, act, proclamation, ordinance, or provision, or any other thing, cause or matter whatsoever, in anywise notwithstanding.

Grant of Bo-  
rough and  
Manor in Fee  
Farm.

And further of our more ample grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, We give, grant, and confirm to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty; and their successors for ever, the aforesaid borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, and the manor of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon aforesaid, with all and singular the rights, members, and appurtenances, and all lands, tenements, and hereditaments to the said borough and manor, or either of them, now or heretofore belonging or appertaining, or heretofore held, known, or reputed to have been part, parcel, or member of the said borough and manor, or either of them. And also all other manors, messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, liberties, free customs, privileges, franchises, immunities, exemptions, acquittances, and jurisdictions whatsoever, which the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the said borough, or the men of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, or either or both of them, by whatever name or whatever names heretofore incorporated have, by right and law held, or have used or enjoyed, or ought lawfully to have held, used and enjoyed, by reason or pretext of any charters or letters patent from any of our progenitors or ancestors, in whatever manner made, confirmed, or granted, or in whatever other lawful manner, by right, custom, use, prescription, or title, have hitherto lawfully

used, had, and exercised : to have and to hold to the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough of Gumecester, otherwise Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon, and their successors for ever, paying henceforth annually to us, our heirs and successors, the antient fee-farm, or rent of £120 of lawful English money, at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, into the hands of our general or particular receiver of our Dutchy of Lancaster for the time being, paying the same by equal portions yearly for ever.

Confirmation  
of the Char-  
ter.

We will also and grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that they may have, hold, use, and enjoy, and that they may and shall be able to have, hold, and enjoy for ever all the liberties, free customs, privileges, authorities, and acquittances aforesaid, according to the tenor and effect of these our letters patent, without any hinderance or impediment of us, our heirs and successors whatsoever, being unwilling that the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid, or that any of them, by reason of the premises or any of them, should be injured, molested, vexed, or in any way disturbed by us, our heirs or successors, or the Justices, Sheriffs, Escheators, or other Bailiffs or Ministers of us, our heirs or successors ; Willing, and by these presents commanding and ordaining, as well

Indemnity  
for the past.

our Treasurer, Chancellor, Barons of our Exchequer at Westminster, and other Justices of us, our heirs and successors, as also our Attorney and Solicitor-General for the time being, and every of them, and all other our officers and ministers whatsoever, that neither they nor any of them shall prosecute or continue, or cause to be prosecuted or continued, any suit, by writ or summons

or quo warranto, or any other process whatsoever, against the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid, or any one or more of them, for any thing, cause, matter, offence, claim, or usurpation, or either of them—by them, or any of them, demanded, claimed, attempted, used, exercised, or usurped before the day of the making of these presents. Also willing that the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty, and the burgesses and men of the said borough, and each of them, shall in no wise be molested or annoyed, or shall be compelled to answer any or either of our aforesaid justices, officers, or ministers, in or for any demand, use, claim, or abuse of any liberties, franchises, or jurisdictions within the aforesaid borough, or the suburbs, liberties, or precincts of the same, before the day of the date of these our letters patent.

Scaled with  
the Great  
Seal and  
Dutchy Seal.

We will also, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, grant to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid, and their successors, that they may and shall have these our letters patent, as well under our Great Seal of England as under our seal of the Dutchy of Lancaster, in due manner made and sealed, without rendering, paying, or making for the same, to us or our use, fine or fee, great or small, in our Hanaper or elsewhere; because express mention of the true annual value, or any other value or certainty of the premises, or any of them, or of other gifts or grants through us, or any of our ancestors or progenitors, to the aforesaid Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the borough aforesaid, hitherto made in these presents, is not to be found, or in any statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restriction, heretofore had, made, decreed, ordained, or provided, or

any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever in restraint or limitation thereof.

June 26th,  
A. D. 1604.

In testimony of which we have caused these  
our letters to be made patent, as well under the  
Great Seal of England<sup>b</sup> as under the seal of our Dutchy of

<sup>b</sup> It was supposed by the learned Dr. Hickes, (in Dissert. Epist. p. 64,) and others, that Edward the Confessor was the first King of England who used a seal in his Charters, similar to the one we find affixed to his Charter given to Westminster Abbey about the year 1065, and preserved amongst the archives of that church, and also on one of his diplomas shewn in the monastery of St. Denis, near Paris. Historians and lawyers commonly assign to St. Edward the first institution of the broad Seal of England. Menage and the editors of the New Latin Glossary of Du Cange, (tom. 6, p. 487,) erroneously attribute to William the Conqueror the first use of a Royal Seal in England; for, in point of fact, Edward the Confessor merely brought the more frequent use of the Royal Seal from France; yet even he gave charters attested by the subscription of illustrious witnesses, with a cross to each name, and without any seal, which continued the usual practice until some time after the Conquest, at which period the use of the Royal Seal became more solemn and common. Montfaucon exhibits three or four rough seals found on some of the Charters of the Merovigian Kings, the oldest of which is one of Theodoric 1st. (*Antiq. de la Monarchie Française.*) The ancient Kings of Persia and Media had their seals. (*Dan. c. vi., v. 17—c. xiv., v. 13 and 16; Esther, c. iii. v. 10.*) Seals are also mentioned by profane authors. The Benedictines in their French diplomatique (t. iv. p. 100,) present us the heads of seals of all the ancient Kings of France, from Childeric, father of Cloves; of the German Emperors and Kings, from Charlemagne, especially from King Henry 2d in the eleventh century, in imitation of the Emperors from Constantinople; of the Kings of Denmark, Bohemia, Hungary, &c. from the 12th century.

The Charter of the Confessor, to Westminster Abbey, is sup-

Lancaster.—Witness myself at Westminster, the 26th day of June, in the year of our reign over England, France, and Ireland the second, and Scotland the thirty-seventh.

By writ of Privy Seal,

C. RAVENSCROFT.

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The above Charter commenced a new era in the Municipal History of Godmanchester. It ordained that the Manor should from thenceforth be a Free Borough, and raised the inhabitants into a Body Corporate, by the name of “The Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the Borough of Godmanchester.” The Corporation thus created was made competent to acquire manors, tenements, lands,

posed to be the oldest specimen of a sealed instrument in England; but genuine Charters of the Saxon Kings, Offa and Æthelwulf, between A.D. 757 and A.D. 857, are still preserved in the Abbey of St. Denis, sealed with their seals, and bearing their effigies. Seals appear to have been but seldom used by the Anglo-Saxons; and even after the Norman invasion were of comparative rare occurrence. The Conqueror frequently confirmed his Charters with a cross, from whence may be ascribed the custom still prevalent, amongst the unlettered, of subscribing to deeds by a mark or X. Until the reign of Henry 2d, the use of seals hardly extended beyond the great Barons. In the 12th century, about the time of the Crusades under Richard the 1st, the custom of signing had almost disappeared, the English Sovereigns authenticating their Charters by their seals only, which custom continued until the reign of Richard 2d, when royal signatures, called Signs-manual, came into use, though seals were still occasionally appended to charters and letters patent.—*Thomson's Notes on Mag. Chart. and Antiq. P. Fol.*

&c. in fee ; to hold and possess every description of property ; and in like manner to let, alienate, grant, or assign such possessions at discretion, under a common seal ; and was further empowered to plead and be impleaded, to defend and be defended, in all Courts of Justice, and in every form of law. From the particular provisions in the Charter relative to the common seal, it may appear that the present corporation seal was then first made ; but on reference to the documents to which we must allude in the progress of this work, it will be found that the twelve men who formerly exercised the greater part of the authorities expressed and confirmed by this Charter of Incorporation, had their common seal, with which they ratified all agreements and contracts ; and from the form of the corporation seal, that of a conventual matrix, with the characters of the inscription,<sup>c</sup> its origin may be considered coeval with the grant of the manor by King John.<sup>d</sup>

The officers created by this charter have had

<sup>c</sup> Vide tail-piece to this Chapter.

<sup>d</sup> Watson asserts, that common seals for boroughs were not generally introduced until the latter part of the reign of Edward 4th, and that in the returns for the cities of London, Winchester, and Canterbury, a common seal was not found before the reign of that Monarch ; but about the time of Edward 1st, seals were common even amongst the gentry of England, who, when arms had become settled and hereditary, used them as devices. Public bodies, as tenants in common of a manor, for the convenience of public business, had their common seals.

perpetual succession. The Recorders and Town Clerks, on vacancies occurring from deaths, resignations, or amotions, have been chosen by the Common Council; and the Bailiffs from amongst the members of the Common Council by annual elections. No material alteration in the form of holding the Courts was adopted in consequence of the Charter of James, its style only having been changed from “*Curia Domini Regis tenet coram,*” &c. to “*Curia Ballivorum Assistantes et Coialt.*”<sup>e</sup>

The borough of Godmanchester has two Coroners<sup>f</sup> for its liberty, who exercise their office by prescription; and the Bailiffs annually retiring from office are immediately sworn Coroners for the ensuing year. No quarter sessions being held in the borough, the Bailiffs and Coroners, though sworn into office in their own court, are re-sworn at the general quarter sessions for the county, and their names enrolled by the Clerk of the Peace.

Under the provisions of this Charter of 1604, constitutions or bye-laws were framed for the good government of the town, regulating the appoint-

<sup>e</sup> This took place at a Court held Sept. 6th, 1607.

<sup>f</sup> They had Coroners before the Charter of James. Thomas Collins and William Herdman were Coroners in 1554, and John Smyth and Thomas Mansa in 1495. “Coroner,” says Cleland, “does not, as is commonly supposed, mean an officer on the crown-side, but is a contraction of two British words *corph* *connor*, a corpse inspector.”

ment of subordinate officers in the Corporation, the manner and time of passing public accounts, impa-nelling of juries, keeping records, and mode of stocking the open fields and commons. The latter provisions are now rendered nugatory by the inclosure of the lordship having put the lands in severalty. The commons in Godmanchester have lately been the source of anxious litigation between the Corporation, on behalf of the free-men of the borough, and the inhabitants occupying commonable houses,<sup>s</sup> but not having been admitted to the freedom of the town. The immemorial usage of stocking the commons confined the privilege to freemen<sup>h</sup>

<sup>s</sup> The houses called Commonable houses, or Antient tenements, were limited in number by the 44th bye-law formed under this charter, viz. "Item—Whereas we find our Commons overcharged, partly by such as divide their tenements, as also by such as have erected new tenements, the number of which do daily increase; for reformation whereof, it is now ordered by the Bailiffs and Assistants, that all such tenements as were divided or erected from the 28th day of Sept. 1601, viz. all such as have been from that time, or shall be hereafter divided or new erected, shall have no Common at all for no manner of cattle upon the Common belonging to this Corporation, except it be known and approved to be an antient tenement; and whereas we now find many such, yet in regard of the long continuance of some, and of the great poverty of others, we have and do order that they shall keep, according to a rate set down in the Stock Book, whereunto every one must submit on pain of 6s. 8d."

<sup>h</sup> The right was restricted to freemen inhabiting such houses by antient usage and by the bye-laws 35 and 36. "Item—It is likewise ordered, that no person or persons whatsoever within this liberty, having not the freedom of the same, do put or suffer to be put



residing in antient tenements. or commonable houses ; but an award, dated Sept. 25th, 1803, made under an Act of Parliament<sup>1</sup> for inclosing the manor, assigned the right to the owners and occupiers of commonable houses, without reference to the qualification of freedom ; and a late judgment<sup>2</sup> in the Court of Common Pleas has confirmed the claims set up by the owners of such houses ; and thus, although the case has not been submitted to a jury, the future right and custom may be considered settled.

By the following extract from the corporation records, we find that a commission was issued in 1607 relative to Godmanchester, which gave some temporary anxiety to the customary tenants of the manor, as to the nature and extent of their tenure.

*“ Gumecestre alias Godmanchester, ye 15th of May, 1607.*

*“ This yeare came one Mr. Thorpe, w<sup>th</sup> a commission under y<sup>e</sup> Duchie Sealle, to survaie and marke all y<sup>e</sup> tymber and trees growinge w<sup>thin</sup> this mannor, who was answered by this certifficat followinge :*

*“ Mr. Thorpe, we have confere<sup>d</sup> w<sup>th</sup> our neigbours*

*on the Common any manner of cattle, upon pain to forfeit, &c. so often as they offend.”* *“ Item—It is ordered that no freeman do keep any manner of cattle upon the Common, except he be continually constant in this town, and then to keep upon the Common for that said house or tenement wherein he dwelleth, according to the custom of this manor, under the pain aforesaid.”*

<sup>1</sup> Passed 43d George 3d.

<sup>2</sup> Nov. 20th, 1830.—By the Lord Chief Justice Tindal, Mr. Justice Gazelee, Mr. Justice Bosanquet, and Mr. Justice Alderson.

consarninge yo<sup>r</sup> comission, whos opinniones are generallye y<sup>t</sup> consideringe o<sup>r</sup> tennor is Auncient Demeasne and prcell of y<sup>e</sup> possessios of y<sup>e</sup> Duchie of Lancaster, that wee holde y<sup>e</sup> said mannor, w<sup>th</sup> all and singuler rights, membres, and app<sup>tn</sup>n<sup>ces</sup> whatsoever ; and all lands, tenēts, and hereditamēts to y<sup>e</sup> same borowghe and mannor belonginge, in fee-farm of y<sup>e</sup> King's Ma<sup>tie</sup> by charter, for y<sup>e</sup> yearly rent of one hundred and twenty pounds p an<sup>n</sup>. And therfor wee hope the intent and meaninge of y<sup>e</sup> King's Ma<sup>ties</sup> comission was not to survaie any tymber or trees w<sup>hin</sup> o<sup>r</sup> sayd mannor."

The answer was admitted good; and no further molestation attempted.

In Hilary Term, 1617, a plea was set up that the manor was absolutely forfeited to the Crown, for that

" King John, by his letters patent, granted to the men of Gumecester and their successors for ever his manor of Gumecester, with the appurtenances, &c. for six times £20 p an<sup>n</sup> pondere et numero, to be paid into the receipt of the Exchequer, at two payments—viz. at Easter and Michaelmas, To have and to hold the said manor as aforesaid, so long as they shall well pay the said rent as aforesaid.

" But they have not paid it *pondere et numero*, therefore the said manor is forfeited to the King, and he may seize it at his pleasure."

To this they answered, that

" The fee-farm rent of six score pounds p an<sup>n</sup> hath been always paid well and truly to the general or p<sup>t</sup>icular receivours of the Kings and Queens of this realm, and of the Dukes of Lancaster, at Easter and Michaelmas yearly,

in good and lawful English money, and therefore the said manor is not forfeited. But admit that we had not paid it *pondere* as well as *numero*, which word *pondere* implies no more than lawfull or currant, according to the King's stamp sterling, or according to his *pr̄lamacōn*, yet since his Ma<sup>ties</sup> coming to the Crown he hath granted us a new charter in secundo of his raigne, and thereby enlarged or priviledges. And in the same granted and confirmed the mannor of Godmanchester to the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Cominaltie of Godmanchester for ever—*solvendi in recept scaccarii sui vel generali receptori vel pticulari receptori ducat sui Lanc<sup>r</sup> p. tempore existen* ;—in these words following : *antiq<sup>u</sup> reddi<sup>9</sup> cent<sup>u</sup> et viginti libras bene et legalis monetæ Angliæ, &c.*

“ So as if we had not paid the said rent untill the daie of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> graunt and confirmacon *pondere et numero*, and had thereby made forfeit thereof—yet his Ma<sup>tie</sup> of his more ampliori gratia hath again graunted and confirmed unto us the said mannor, paying £120 of *good and lawfull English money*, and seing it hath since, as ever, bene as well and dulle and carefullie paid in good starlinge coyne as anie rents in England are paid, we have great cause to hope that we shall rest at quiet without molestacōn or grievance in this behalfe.

“ The auditors have always given us a discharge of all o<sup>r</sup> Bailiffs accompts—*oneratis allocatisque recesserunt inde quieti*, and therefore we presume that our money was paid in sufficient—*t<sup>m</sup> pondere q<sup>m</sup> numero.*”

This answer was also deemed satisfactory ; the liability of being called upon for payment *in tale* having ceased on the grant of King James's Charter.

On the 4th of June, 1684, during the bailiffship

of Robert Vinter and Reuben Clarke, the Charter was surrendered to Charles 2d, under the common seal, and presented to the King on the 18th of June in the same year, with a petition from the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty for a re-grant, with such enlargement of powers and liberties, and such corrections, as might be deemed proper.

“ SURRENDER OF CHARTER TO CHARLES 2D.

“ To all to whom these presents shall come.—The Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the Borough of Gumecester, alias Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon, send greeting.—Know ye, that the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty, for good considerations them thereto moving, have granted, and by these presents do grant, to our most gracious Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second, his heirs and successors, all and singular the manors, messuages, lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments, with the appurtenances whatsoever, whereof or wherein the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty are now or at any time heretofore have been any ways seized, possessed, or interested, in right of their Corporation, or in their corporate capacity by any ways howsoever.

“ And farther, for the considerations aforesaid, the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Comonalty have granted, surrendered, and yielded up unto our said Sovereign Lord the King's most excellent Majesty, all franchises, charters, letters patent of incorporation, powers, privileges, liberties, and immunities whatsoever, at any time or times heretofore granted or holden or enjoyed by the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty, or their or any of their predecessors, by any ways or means, or by what

name or names soever.—In witness whereof the said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty in Burgh-mote assembled, have hereunto affixed their common seal, this 14th day of June, in the 36th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles 2d, in the year of our Lord Christ 1684.”

“TO THE KING’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

“The humble petition of your Majesty’s most obedient subjects the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Comalty of the Borough of Godmanchester, humbly shews,

“That your Majesty’s poor tenants, the petitioners, are and have been incorporated ever since the 14th year of your dread Sovereign’s Royal Progenitor King John, which has been continued by the gracious confirmation of your Majesty’s predecessors till this present. But now, in manifestation of their loyalty, they do unanimously lay down their Charter and themselves at your Majesty’s disposal. Humbly imploring your Majesty to restore them their former privileges, with such correction as your Majesty in your princely wisdom shall think fit. And, as in duty bound, they shall ever pray for your Majesty’s long life, peaceable and prosperous reign.”

The surrender and petition were presented to the King at Windsor, and on the following day the Charter was returned to the Secretary of State’s Office, with this notification attached to it :

*“At the Court at Windsor, June 19th, 1684.*

“His Majesty is graciously pleased to refer this petition to Mr. Attorney or Mr. Solicitor-General, to consider thereof, and of what alterations are fit to be made in the new Charter ; and to report what may be fit for his Majesty to do upon the whole matter : and then his Majesty will declare his farther pleasure.      “SUNDERLAND.”

The Charter does not appear to have been restored by Charles 2d, possibly from the circumstance of his dying a few months after the above recorded event ; but James 2d, in the first year of his reign, granted to the men of Godmanchester an entire new Charter, bearing date April 6th, 1685.

The Charter of James 2d was very similar to the Charter of James the 1st, and gave no farther increase of privileges than the holding of a second fair, on the Tuesday after the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude. It was publicly read at the Court Hall in Godmanchester on the 14th of April, 1685; and the Courts of the Bailiffs, which, in consequence of the surrender of the Charter to Charles 2d, had been suspended from the 5th of June, 1684, were resumed, the first being held on Thursday,\* the 16th of April, 1685. By royal proclamation on the 17th of October, 1688, corporations were commanded to resume their old charters ; and thus, after four years' continuance, the Charter of James 2d became a dead letter, and the Charter of 1604 was restored to the borough, under the authority of which the Corporation continues to exercise its authorities.

\* The Courts were held on Thursdays from the time of the original grant of the manor by King John, until the year 1808, when the Court-day was changed to Wednesday, the first being held on Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 1808.

## OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION.

## HIGH STEWARDS.

[A.D. 1631.]—In the Charter of James 2d, bearing date April 6th, 1685, occurs the first appointment by charter of a Capital Seneschal or High Steward to the Borough of Godmanchester; and in which Charter, Charles Earl of Manchester is nominated and appointed for life; nevertheless, we find Edward Viscount Mandeville, an ancestor of that nobleman, holding the office of High Steward in the year 1631.

This distinguished nobleman<sup>1</sup> was the eldest son of Sir Henry Montagu, first Earl of Manchester. Sir Henry Montagu represented the city of London in the first Parliament of King James 1st, held at Westminster on the 19th March, 1604, and in 1616 was appointed Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench. In 1620 he was nominated Lord Treasurer of England, and elevated on the 19th of December, in the same year, to the peerage, by the style of Baron Montagu of Kimbolton and Viscount Mandeville. After the accession of Charles 1st, on the 5th of February, 1626, his Lordship was advanced to the dignity of an earldom, as Earl of Manchester, and subsequently nominated Lord Privy Seal. His Grace died on the 7th of November, 1642, and was succeeded by his son, the above

<sup>1</sup> Burke and Debrett.

mentioned Edward, who was summoned to the upper house during the life-time of his father, as Baron Kimbolton. He was an active and successful general of the parliamentary forces during the civil wars, and particularly distinguished himself in the celebrated battle with and victory over Prince Rupert at Marston Moor, in which engagement Cromwell acted as his lieutenant-general. He took no part in the trial or execution of King Charles, but retired from Parliament until the year 1660, when he formed one of the assemblage of Peers who voted for the restoration of Charles the 2d, and was by them deputed to congratulate the King in their name upon his return to the capital. This duty he discharged at Whitehall on the 29th of May, 1660. His Lordship died on the 5th of May, 1671, and was succeeded by his eldest son—

[A. D. 1671.]—Robert, third Earl of Manchester, who, on the death of his father, was appointed High Steward of Godmanchester. His Lordship died in 1682, and was succeeded by his son—

[A. D. 1682.]—Charles, fourth Earl of Manchester, and who in the same year was elected High Steward of Godmanchester, which office was confirmed to him for life by the Charter of James 2d, 1685. Having espoused the cause of William of Orange, he accompanied that prince into Ireland, and was present at the battle of the Boyne, and the subsequently unsuccessful siege of Limerick. In 1696 his Lordship was appointed Ambassador Extraordi-



nary to the Court of France; in 1701, constituted principal Secretary of State; and in 1707, Ambassador Extraordinary to the Court of Vienna. Upon the accession of George 1st he was continued in the Lord-Lieutenancy of the county of Huntingdon, sworn of the Privy Council, appointed one of the Lords of his Majesty's bed-chamber, and finally created Duke of Manchester on the 30th of April, 1719. His Grace died on the 20th of January, 1721, and was succeeded in his titles by his son—

[A. D. 1721.]—William, second Duke of Manchester, who, on the 24th of January, in the same year, was elected High Steward of Godmanchester. William, second Duke of Manchester, died without issue on the 21st of October, 1739, when his honors devolved upon this brother—

[A. D. 1739.]—Robert, third Duke of Manchester, and who, in 1739, was appointed High Steward of Godmanchester. His Lordship died on the 1st of May, 1762, and was succeeded by his son—

[A. D. 1762.]—George, fourth Duke of Manchester, who, on the 6th of May, in the same year, was elected High Steward of Godmanchester. His Grace was appointed Master of the Horse in 1780, and died on the 2d of September, 1788, when he was succeeded by his only surviving son—

[A. D. 1792.]—William, fifth Duke of Manchester, the present peer. “ On the 4th of January, 1792,<sup>m</sup> the Most Noble William Duke of Man-

<sup>m</sup> Corporation Records.

chester was elected High Steward of Godmanchester, on the death of his father, the Most Noble George, late Duke of Manchester. The freedom of the town was voted to him, and a deed of office ordered to be engrossed."

His Lordship was appointed in 1808, Captain-general and Governor of the Island of Jamaica, which office he held until 1828, when, on his return to England, he was appointed Postmaster General, from which office he was removed on the formation of the Whig Administration, under the auspices of Earl Grey, in 1830. His Grace is Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotolorum of the county of Huntingdon, and continues to hold the office of High Steward of the borough of Godmanchester.

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#### RECORDERS.

[A. D. 1604.]—John Rosse, appointed by charter the first Recorder, June 26th, second of James 1st.

[A. D. 1617.] — Thomas Hetley, Esq., elected Recorder by the Common Council of the borough, and who, in conjunction with Henry Cromwell, second son of Sir Henry Cromwell, and father of the Protector, represented the borough of Huntingdon in Parliament in the year 1603.

[A. D. 1636.]—Robert Bernard, Esq.,<sup>n</sup> was pre-

<sup>n</sup> "Gumecester alias Godmanchester.—Ad vis franci pleg ibm

sented with his freedom, and elected Recorder of the borough of Godmanchester, with a salary of forty shillings per annum. He was descended from an antient family at Abinton, near Northampton, but residing at Huntingdon, was appointed with Dr. Beard and Oliver Cromwell (subsequently the Protector) Justice of the Peace for that borough in the Charter of Incorporation, July 15th, 1630.<sup>o</sup> In 1639 he was elected one of the representatives in parliament for the borough of Huntingdon, but retired from its representation in the following year, and appears to have taken no active part in public business during that eventful period; but soon after the Restoration, June 21st, 1660, he was admitted Serjeant at Law, and on July 1st, 1662, created by Charles 2d a Baronet. He died in 1666, and lies buried in the north aisle of the parish church of Abinton.

[A. D. 1669.]—John Heron, Esq., elected Recorder. “He was a descendant from Sir John

tent in festo Sci Michis Arch. An viij Caroli R. Ad hanc Cur Robtus Bernard Armiger ex spiali gratia Ballivor et Assistentium jurat est in libtatem Burgi pred et admissus est. Fin remittit quia in officiu Recordator electus est. Ad hanc Cur predcus Robertus Bernard Armiger constitutus electus et jurat est Recordator Burgi pred'ci per Ballios Assisten' et Comunitat Burgi pd habend et gaudend p termino vite sue cum Annual Feodo quadragint solidor exeunt de terris et tenement burgi, solvend ad festum Anunciacionis bte Marie Virginis et Sci Michis Archangeli per equales porciones.”—*Stock Book A.*

° Hunt. Chart. 6 Car. 1.

Heron,<sup>p</sup> of Cheperhase or Chipchase Castle, in Northumberland, Knight, who came into England with William the Conqueror.” He is farther described as having been “a councellor at law and a justice,” in a volume of heraldic collections amongst the Cottonian MSS. Brit. Mus. No. 921. He died April 2d, 1679.

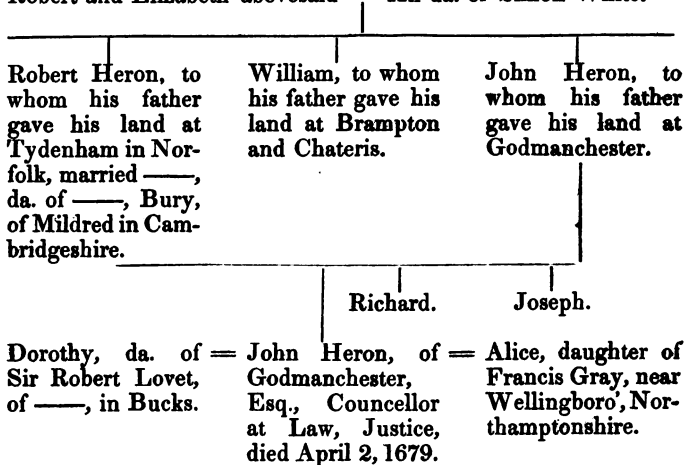
*p The Heron pedigree, and the families into which they have married.*

Sir John Heron married —, daughter and heiress of Sir William Cheperhase, of Cheperhase Castle in Northumberland, Knight, of y<sup>e</sup> race of y<sup>e</sup> Saxons, and by her had issue Sir Roger Heron; who by —, daughter of Lord Dyle, had issue Sir Thomas; who by —, daughter of Sir William Danwell, had issue Sir William; who by —, daughter of Sir William Sanwerth, had issue Sir Thomas; who by —, daughter of Sir William Sulton, had issue James Heron, Esq.; who by —, daughter of Sir William Selton, Baron of Selton, had issue James Heron, Esq.; who by —, daughter of Sir John Marney, had issue Sir John; who by —, daughter of Sir William Throgmorton, had issue Sir Thomas; who by —, daughter of Sir William Barton, had issue Sir John; who by —, daughter of Sir John Sorwell, had issue Sir William; who by —, daughter of Sir William Denton, had issue Sir William; who by —, daughter of Sir William Mulgrave, had issue Sir John; who by —, daughter of Sir Thomas Winter, had two sons, viz. Sir John Heron of Chipchase, his eldest son, and Thomas Heron, his second son, merchant of Newcastle, which Thomas married —, daughter of Sir William Shastowe, Maior of Newcastle, by whom he had issue Robert Heron of Newcastle, merchant; who by —, daughter of Alderman Anderson, of Newcastle, had issue Robert Heron, y<sup>e</sup> eldest son, who came into Lincolnshire; John Heron, second son, came into Yorkshire, alibi Sir Edward Heron of Stamford, after of

[A. D. 1679.]—Robert, Earl of Ailesbury. He was the only son of Thomas Bruce,<sup>a</sup> third Lord Bruce of Kinloss, who was raised to the Scottish Earldom of Elgin, July 18th, 1633 ; and on whom the barony of Bruce of Whorlton, in the county of York, was conferred by King Charles 1st, August 1st, 1641. On the death of his father he became second Earl of Elgin, Baron Bruce of Kinloss, and

**Langtoft, Serjeant at Law and Baron of y<sup>e</sup> Exchequer. Richard Heron, of Tidenham, in Norfolk, who was father of the following:**

Robert Heron, of Godmanchester, in Huntingdonshire, had three wives: y<sup>e</sup> first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Tryce of Godmanchester, gent.; John Heron, eldest son of Robert and Elizabeth abovesaid = An da. of Simon White.



### A Chevron between three Herons.

*Cotton MSS. Brit. Mus. 921.*

See also Visitation of Hunts, 1613.—*Brit. Mus.*

<sup>4</sup> Burke's Peerage.

Baron Bruce of Whorlton. He was a zealous and firm adherent to King Charles the first, to whom he rendered many important services, in consideration of which, and his Lordship's active exertions in promoting the Restoration, he was elevated to the English peerage on the 18th of March, 1663-4, by the style of Baron Bruce of Skelton, in the county of York; Viscount Bruce of Amptill, in the county of Bedford; and Earl of Ailesbury, in the county of Bucks. He was elected Recorder of Godmanchester<sup>r</sup> on the death of John Heron, Esq., in 1679; and after having served his Majesty Charles 2d, in various capacities, and assisting at the coronation of James 2d, died on the 20th of October, 1685, and was succeeded by—

[A.D. 1685.]—Thomas, third Earl of Elgin, and second Earl of Ailesbury, who the same year was appointed Recorder of the borough of Godmanchester. Charles Shepherd, Esq., of Hilton, Hunts, was nominated his deputy, and sworn into that office Dec. 7th, 1685. The attachment of this nobleman to the house of Stuart led to his impeachment and imprisonment; but having obtained permission from King William to leave the kingdom, he retired to Brussels, where he died in 1736.<sup>s</sup>

[A. D. 1692.]—John Montague, Esq., was chosen Recorder, who appointed John Pocklington, Esq.,

<sup>r</sup> This office was confirmed to him by the Charter of James 2d.

<sup>s</sup> Crabb's Hist. Dict.

his deputy. John Montague, Esq., died in 1693, and—

[A. D. 1693.]—Sir Edmund Gardner, Knight,<sup>t</sup> was chosen Recorder. He died in 1694, and—

[A. D. 1694.] — John Pocklington, Esq., was elected Recorder, and sworn into office on the 7th of November in the same year.

[A. D. 1715.]—John Pocklington, Esq., resigned the office of Recorder on being chosen an Irish Judge, and John Raby, Esq. was appointed and sworn Recorder. He was admitted Serjeant at Law in 1723, about which time he was chosen Recorder of the borough of Huntingdon, and died January 26th, 1731.<sup>u</sup> He was buried in St. Mary's church, Huntingdon, on the north-east angle of the nave of which is a mural monument to his memory.

[A. D. 1731.]—Charles Clarke, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn, was chosen Recorder on Feb. 3d, and sworn into office on March 13th, 1731. He was appointed one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and died in 1750, of an infectious disorder caught at the Old Bailey Sessions.

[A. D. 1750.]—John, fourth Earl of Sandwich, was elected Recorder of Godmanchester. This

<sup>t</sup> Sir Edmund Gardner, Knight., was buried in St. Mary's Church, Huntingdon, Nov. 6th, 1694. His alliances are noticed in a mural monument of the Carcassonett family, on the south-east angle of the nave.

<sup>u</sup> St. Mary's Register, Huntingdon.

celebrated statesman and antiquary was born in 1718, and son of Edward Viscount Hinchinbrook, who died in 1722, by Elizabeth, only daughter of Alexander Popham, Esq., of Littlecote, in the county of Wilts. He succeeded to the peerage on the death of his grandfather, Edward, third Earl of Sandwich, 20th of October, 1729. Having studied at Eton, he removed to Trinity College, Cambridge, from whence, on leaving the University, he set out on his travels, and in 1738 and 1739 visited Sicily, Malta, Turkey, Egypt, and other countries bordering on the Mediterranean. He brought home a valuable collection of antiquities, particularly a marble vase, obtained at Athens, which he presented to the college where he was educated. An account of his "Voyage round the Mediterranean," drawn up by himself, with Memoirs of his Life, by his Chaplain, the Rev. J. Cooke, was published after his death in 1799, 4to., and a second edition of the work appeared in 1807. After his return home he was appointed a Lord of the Admiralty; and in 1746 despatched to the Congress of Breda as Minister Plenipotentiary. In 1748 he was employed as Diplomatist, and assisted at the Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle, and subsequently was appointed Secretary of State and first Lord of the Admiralty. On the death of Baron Clarke, he was presented with the freedom of Godmanchester, and elected Recorder May 9th, 1750; in 1752 he was chosen, and served the office of Bailiff, but retired from the



office of Assistant Dec. 18th, 1756, though he continued to exercise that of Recorder until his death in 1792.

[A. D. 1793.]—On the death of John, the fourth Earl of Sandwich, he was succeeded in the peerage by his only surviving son, John, the fifth Earl, who was elected Recorder of Godmanchester at a Common Council, held the 30th of August, 1792, and took the oaths of office and was presented with his freedom Oct. 2d, 1793. His Lordship held the post of Master of the King's Stag Hounds, from which he retired on the accession of the Grenville and Whig administration in 1806; and upon their secession from office, he obtained the lucrative appointment of Post-master General. He died June 15th, 1814, and was succeeded in his titles and hereditary claims by his son—

[A. D. 1814.]—George John, the sixth Earl of Sandwich, who the same year was elected Recorder of Godmanchester. George John, Earl of Sandwich, died at Albano, near Rome, in the year 1818. On July 9th, 1804, his Lordship married Louisa Harriett, daughter of the Earl of Belmore, by whom he had issue Harriet Mary, married in 1823 to William Bingham Baring, Esq., M. P.; Caroline Katherine; and John William, the present Earl of Sandwich, a minor, born Nov. 8th, 1811.

[A. D. 1818.]—On the death of John George, the sixth Earl of Sandwich, William Assheton, the second Lord Suffield, was elected Recorder of the

borough, and sworn into office Sept. 29th, 1818. The paternal surname of Lord Suffield was Morden, which was relinquished for that of Harbord, his maternal grandfather, by Sir William Morden, K. B., who was created a Baronet 22d of March, 1745. He died in 1770, and was succeeded by Sir Harbord Harbord, M.P. for the city of Norwich, who was advanced to the honour of the peerage August 8th, 1786, by the style and title of Baron Suffield, of Suffield, in the county of Norfolk. He died in 1810, and was succeeded in his title by William Assheton (his eldest son) the second Baron, who, dying in 1821 without issue, his style and honors devolved upon his brother, the Honourable Edward Harbord, present and third Lord Suffield.

[A.D. 1821.]—On the death of Lord Suffield, Henry Sweeting, Esq., Solicitor, Huntingdon, was elected Recorder of Godmanchester, and took the oaths of office August 29th, 1821.

**BAILIFFS OF GODMANCHESTER, FROM THE GRANT OF THE  
CHARTER OF INCORPORATION BY KING JAMES, JUNE 26,  
A.D. 1604 TO A.D. 1831.**

A.D.		A.D.	
1604.	John Peat, and Henry Stevenson. } <sup>a</sup>	1616.	H. Stevenson, who died, when Henry Kendall, Coroner, resumed office, William Maile.
	Samuel Pont, and Edward Lockington. } <sup>b</sup>	1617.	John Sheapearde, Thomas Trice.
1605.	Richard Shute, Richard Nailour.	1618.	Robert Trice, John Hearne.
1606.	Robert Trice, John Robins.	1619.	Thomas Maile, Richard Stevenson.
1607.	Robert Vinter, John Proby.	1620.	Edmund Torkinton, Thomas Pont.
1608.	John Sheapearde, John Hearne.	1621.	William Maile, Henry Kendall.
1609.	William Maile, John Robins.	1622.	Robert Vinter, John Shepard.
1610.	Samuel Pont, Edmund Torkinton.	1623.	Thomas Maile, John Herne.
1611.	Robert Trice, Henry Kendall.	1624.	Thomas Trice, Richard Stevenson.
1612.	William Maile, John Sheapearde.	1625.	Edmund Torkinton, William Clarke.
1613.	Thomas Maile, John Robins.	1626.	William Maile, Thomas Pont.
1614.	Robert Trice, John Hearne.	1627.	Robert Vinter, Henry Kendall.
1615.	William Bush, Henry Kendall.		

<sup>a</sup> First or modern Bailiffs by Charter.

<sup>b</sup> Elected in form prescribed by the Charter, June 26th, 1604.

A. D.	A. D.
1628. Thomas Trice, jun., John Shepard.	1643. Roger Bush, Jasper Robins.
1629. Samuel Alred, Richard Stevenson.	1644. William Clarke, Henry Kendall.
1630. J. Goldesborough, Esq. John Herne.	1645. William Hearne, Robert Abbott.
1631. William Herne, Thomas Pont.	1646. Robert Vinter, Robert Stevenson.
1632. Robert Vinter, John Clarke.	1647. Thomas Maile, John Clarke.
1633. Thomas Tryce, Henry Carlis.	1648. Robert Maile, Thomas Silke.
1634. William Clarke, Henry Kendall.	1649. Roger Bush, Thomas Pont.
1635. Jasper Robins, John Maile.	1650. Nathaniel Trice, Robert Vinter, jun.
1636. William Hearne, Richard Stevenson.	1651. John Lockington, Jasper Robins.
1637. John Goldesborough, Esq., who died, and William Hearne, Co- roner, resumed office, Henry Carlis.	1652. Robert Vinter, sen. Robert Abbott.
1638. Robert Maile, Henry Kendall.	1653. Nicholas Wright, Thomas Silke.
1639. Robert Vinter, John Clarke.	1654. Samuel Pont, Thomas Maile.
1640. William Hearne, Robert Green, who died, and John Clarke, the Coroner, resumed of- fice.	1655. John Tryce, Thomas Pont.
1641. Henry Stevenson, jun. Thomas Maile.	1656. William Franklyn, Robert Baker.
1642. Robert Maile. Thomas Silke.	1657. James Mayle, Nathaniel Tryce.
	1658. Thomas Pont, Robert Vinter, sen.
	1659. Roger Bush, Robert Vinter, jun.
	1660. William Franklyn, John Heron, Esq.

A. D.

- 1661. Thomas Maile,  
Samuel Pont.
- 1662. James Mayle,  
William Ladds.
- 1663. William Clarke,  
Samuel Fox.
- 1664. Roger Bush,  
John Stocker.
- 1665. John Stevenson,  
Thomas Mayle.
- 1666. William Franklyn.  
James Paris.
- 1667. William Clarke, jun.  
Ruben Clarke.
- 1668. William Ladds,  
Robert Baker.
- 1669. John Stevenson,  
John Stocker.
- 1670. William Franklyn,  
John Tryce.
- 1671. Thomas Maile,  
William Bush.
- 1672. Ruben Clarke,  
Robert Taylor.
- 1673. Henry Fitton,  
William Ladds.
- 1674. John Tryce,  
Robert Baker.
- 1675. William Franklyn,  
John Stocker.
- 1676. William Bush,  
Ruben Clarke.
- 1677. John Stevenson,  
Joseph Silke.
- 1678. Henry Fitton,  
Thomas Tryce.

A. D.

- 1679. John Tryce,  
Robert Taylor.
- 1680. Robert Baker,  
Samuel Skeggs.
- 1681. Robert Stocker,  
Nicholas Bush.
- 1682. Thomas Betts,  
John Wright.
- 1683. Reuben Clarke,  
Robert Vinter.
- 1684. Thomas Tryce,  
Robert Stocker.
- 1685. Samuel Fox, sen.  
(William Robins was  
elected, but refusing to  
serve, was fined five  
pounds.)  
William Ladds.
- 1686. William Thurston,  
Allured Clarke.
- 1687. Thomas Betts,  
John Wright.
- 1688. Sir John Hewitt, by his  
Deputy, Robert Vinter,  
Reuben Clarke.
- 1689. Robert Baker,  
Thomas Maile.
- 1690. William Ladds,  
John Clarke.
- 1691. Thomas Tryce,  
Samuel Skeggs.
- 1692. Robert Taylor, who  
died, when Thomas  
Tryce, the Coroner,  
resumed office,  
Robert Vinter.

A. D.	A. D.
1693. Thomas Betts, John Stevenson.	1707. William Negus.
1694. Thomas Maile, Alred Clarke.	1708. Alred Clarke, John Stevenson.
1695. Thomas Tryce, John Pell.	1709. Robert Stocker; but deemed incapacitated from residing at Hun- tingdon. Wm. Bennet sworn in his stead.
1696. Samuel Skeggs, Thomas Bentley.	John Wright.
1697. Robert Vinter, Francis Negus.	1710. John Negus, sen. Thomas Stocker.
1698. Robert Throckmorton, Esq., who is described "Parliament-man for the County of Hun- tingdon," Alred Clarke.	1711. John Negus, jun. William Bennett.
1699. William Nailour, Robert Stocker.	1712. Robert Vinter, jun. John Negus, sen.
1700. Robert Vinter, Reverend John Allen.	1713. William Nailour, who died, when Coroner, Robert Vinter, jun. re- sumed office.
1701. John Pell, Thomas Stocker	Samuel Skeggs.
1702. Samuel Skeggs, Thomas Bentley.	1714. John Negus, jun. Alred Clarke.
1703. Robert Vinter, Alred Clarke.	1715. John Stevenson, Robert Stocker.
1704. John Stevenson, Franois Negus.	1716. John Wright, Thomas Pattison.
1705. Richard Carrier, Robert Stocker.	1717. Thos. Stocker, who died, when Coroner, John Wright, resumed office John Skeggs.
1706. John Wright elected, but refusing to serve, fined £10. Samuel Skeggs, Thomas Stocker.	1718. William Bennett, Samuel Skeggs.
1707. Francis Negus,	1719. John Negus, jun. Allured Clarke.
	1720. John Stevenson, Thomas Dowseing.

A. D.

1721. Robert Vinter,  
John Negus.
1722. Robert Stocker.  
Sam. Skeggs, who died,  
when Coroner, John  
Negus resumed office.
1723. John Wright,  
Thomas Stocker,
1724. Thomas Pattison,  
Robert Stocker.
1725. John Skeggs,  
Thomas Mehew.
1726. William Bennett,  
John Negus, jun.
1727. John Stevenson,  
William Alred.
1728. John Negus, sen.,  
Robert Stevenson.
1729. John Negus, jun.,  
Alred Clarke.
1730. Robert Stocker,  
Original Jackson.
1731. John Negus,  
Phillip Chapman.
1732. John Mehew,  
John Skeggs.
1733. William Bennet,  
Robert Stevenson.
1734. Robert Stocker,  
Original Jackson.
1735. Alred Clarke,  
John Negus.
1736. Phillip Chapman,  
Thomas Dowseing.
1737. Richard Caryer,  
Thomas Mehew.

A. D.

1738. Thomas Dowseing,  
Robert Stevenson.
1739. Original Jackson,  
John Skeggs.
1740. Philip Chapman,  
John Mehew.
1741. John Negus,  
Richard Caryer.
1742. Alured Clarke,  
Thomas Dowseing.
1743. Phillip Chapman,  
Thomas Mehew.
1744. James Stocker,  
John Mehew.
1745. Robert Stevenson,  
John Martin.
1746. Richard Beaumont,  
Philip Keene.
1747. John Skeggs,  
Original Jackson.
1748. John Wright,  
Thomas Mehew.
1749. John Mehew,  
John Jackson.
1750. Philip Keene,  
Richard Beaumont.
1751. Robert Stevenson,  
Thomas Mehew.
1752. Original Jackson, by his  
Deputy, John Jackson.  
Earl of Sandwich, by his  
Deputy, John Wright.
1753. Richard Beaumont,  
John Jackson.
1754. Thomas Mehew,  
John Wright.

A. D.

- 1755. John Mehew,  
Philip Keene.
- 1756. Robert Stevenson,  
James Stocker.
- 1757. William Mehew,  
Thomas Stocker.
- 1758. John Jackson,  
Hugh Ferrar.
- 1759. Richard Beaumont,  
John Wright.
- 1760. Thomas Mehew,  
James Stocker.
- 1761. John Mehew,  
William Fox.
- 1762. Robert Stevenson,  
Thomas Clarke.
- 1763. William Mehew,  
Thomas Stocker.
- 1764. Hugh Ferrar,  
The Rev. John Clarke,  
by his Deputy, James  
Stocker.
- 1765. John Wright,  
Richard Beaumont.
- 1766. James Stocker,  
John Mehew.
- 1767. William Mehew,  
William Fox.
- 1768. Thomas Stocker,  
Thomas Dexter.
- 1769. Richard Beaumont,  
Thomas Wright.
- 1770. James Stocker,  
Thomas Clarke.
- 1771. William Mehew,  
Charles Beaumont.

A. D.

- 1772. William Fox,  
The Rev. Castle Sherard
- 1773. Thomas Stocker,  
Thomas Wright.
- 1774. James Stocker,  
Rev. Castle Sherard, by  
his Deputy, Thomas  
Clarke.
- 1775. William Mehew,  
Thomas Dexter.
- 1776. Thomas Stocker,  
William Fox.
- 1777. David Veasey,  
Charles Beaumont.
- 1778. Richard Beaumont,  
Thomas Wright.
- 1779. Thomas Dexter,  
General Clarke, by his  
Deputy, William Me-  
hew.
- 1780. John Martin,  
John Laxon.
- 1781. Edward Martin,  
William Mehew.
- 1782. Rev. Castle Sherard, by  
his Deputy, William  
Mehew.  
Thomas Stocker.
- 1783. Thomas Wright,  
John Laxon.
- 1784. John Martin,  
John Dexter.
- 1785. William Mehew,  
Edward Martin.
- 1786. Rev. Castle Sherard,  
John Jackson.

N



A. D.

1787. Thomas Stocker,  
John Laxon.
1788. Thomas Wright,  
John Martin.
1789. William Mehew,  
Edward Martin.
1790. Richard Miles,  
John Scott.
1791. Rev. Castle Sherard,  
Thomas Clarke, Esq.
1792. Charles Beaumont,  
James Stocker.
1793. John Dexter,  
Charles Pope.
1794. John Martin,  
Robert Waller.
1795. David Veasey,  
Edward Martin.
1796. Richard Miles,  
John Scott.
1797. Rev. Castle Sherard,  
Lieut.-General Clarke.
1798. Charles Beaumont,  
James Stocker.
1799. John Dexter,  
John Scott.
1800. Thomas Fox,  
Charles Pope.
1801. John Martin,  
John Lancaster.
1802. David Veasey,  
Robert Waller.
1803. Richard Miles,  
Charles Beaumont.
1804. Richard George Sherard  
John Pasheller.

A. D.

1805. John Brown,  
David Veasey.
1806. Charles Pope,  
John Lancaster.
1807. John Martin,  
Thomas Fox.
1808. P. Cockerill,  
Richard Miles.
1809. David Veasey,  
Robert Hicks.
1810. John Pasheller,  
John Dexter.
1811. Charles Pope,  
Rev. George Sherard.
1812. John Lancaster, sen.  
Robert Wright.
1813. John Martin,  
Thomas Fox.
1814. P. Cockerill,  
Richard Miles.
1815. David Veasey,  
Robert Hicks, surgeon.
1816. John Pasheller,  
John Lancaster, jun.
1817. Charles Pope,  
Thomas Fox.
1818. Rev. J. Chartres,  
Samuel Bates.
1819. Robert Hicks,  
James Strangward.
1820. Charles Pope,  
John Lancaster.
1821. Richard Miles,  
Thomas Fox.
1822. Samuel Bates,  
John Kisby.

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A. D.

- 1823. Robert Hicks,  
Edward Martin.
- 1824. James Strangward,  
Thomas Maile.
- 1825. John Lancaster,  
John Hicks.
- 1826. Richard Miles,  
Robert Fox, surgeon.

A. D.

- 1827. Thomas Fox,  
Charles Coe.
- 1828. Samuel Bates,  
Downes Martin.
- 1829. Edward Martin,  
John Kisby.
- 1830. James Strangward,  
John Lancaster.



## CHAPTER VIII.

## NAVIGATION AND DRAINAGE.



ESSENTIALLY connected with the Navigation and Drainage of this country as is the Corporation of Godmanchester, but vague notions are entertained with respect to the origin and extent of its powers, and how beneficially they might be exercised: we shall therefore enter somewhat comprehensively into the consideration of them, in order to lay the subject fairly before those, without whose co-operation they cannot be made effectively available to these important objects.

The navigation from the North Sea by the port of Lynn to the towns of Bedford, Biggleswade, and Shefford, in Bedfordshire, is by the river Ouse, which, in its course, forms the north and west boundaries of Godmanchester, and by its immediate proximity to the town, gives to the inhabitants all

the advantages with which it is fraught. It is a noble river, in many places rivalling the Humber and the Severn in beauty; has numerous springs and rivulets tributary to its waters, which are farther supplied by the drainage it facilitates to the extensive tract of inland country through which it runs. It rises at a place called Ousewell,<sup>a</sup> near Brackley, in Northamptonshire, from whence, after a circuit of 160 miles, it passes through the port of Lynn into the German Ocean. At a short distance from its origin, it is joined by a small stream from Towcester, whence, taking an easterly course, somewhat inclined northward, through Buckinghamshire, it enters Bedfordshire between Brayfield and Turry, and descending by many windings towards the south, unites at Newport Pagnell with a second stream, with which it flows in conjunction to the town of Bedford, where it becomes navigable. At a short distance from Bedford it is joined by the Hyee from Woburn, and at Tempsford Bridge by the river Ivel, navigable from Biggleswade and Shefford, and enters Huntingdonshire at the market town of Saint Neots, proceeding through a diversified and beautiful valley to the towns of Godmanchester and Huntingdon.

It then passes the villages of Hartford, Houghton, and Hemingford, and flowing onwards through the populous and opulent town of Saint Ives, enters

<sup>a</sup> Wells on the Bedford Level.

Cambridgeshire at Haddenham, near Earith. Here its antient course is in a great degree arrested by the Hermitage Sluice, and a new character given to it, by the artificial rivers and other works which from time to time have been formed for the drainage and improvement of that extensive and important tract of fen land, called the Great Bedford Level.<sup>b</sup> At Haddenham the river Ouse formerly divided into two branches, one falling by Earith, where it now again divides, and for the most part proceeds through the cut made by the Adventurers, called the "hundred feet," running in a straight line from

<sup>b</sup> "The History of the Great Level of the Fens, called the Bedford Level, with the Constitution and Laws of the Bedford Level Corporation," has recently been published by Samuel Wells, Esq. Register of the Corporation, in 2 vols. royal 8vo. The first contains a comprehensive account of the origin and progress of the drainage of that extensive district by the early Adventurers, and the completion of their object by the Honourable the Corporation of the Bedford Level; the rivers, canals, sluices, and other public works, forming a practical dissertation on their importance and government. The 2d. vol. consists of "a collection of the Laws which form the constitution of the Bedford Level Corporation," with curious antient documents of high literary interest and great local importance, constituting together a valuable compendium of information, filling up a chasm in the Topographical History of our Country, and which will remain an honourable memorial of the Author's devotedness to the interests and services of that numerous, intelligent, and wealthy body of proprietors, of whom he is so efficient an officer. Mr. Wells has also published a well-executed Map, taken from actual survey, illustrative of his History, and the present state of the Fens.

thence to Denver Sluice; but the residue of its waters pursue their antient channel by the Old West River, through the Hermitage Sluice, in the direction of Harrimeer, where they are joined by the Cam and the Grant; from whence, approaching the city of Ely, they diverge eastward to Prickwillow, where they receive the waters of the Lark or Mildenhall river, and beyond Littleport-chair those of the Brandon or lesser Ouse; whence, taking a N.W. direction to Denver Sluice, they there unite with the lower end of the hundred feet cut, and form the great river Ouse, which, flowing on in the majesty of its accumulated waters, proceeds by Downham, Stow, and Magdalen bridges, from whence, until lately, by a circuitous channel, but now through the Eau-brink cut, it enters the harbour of the port of Lynn.

The second original branch, called the West-water, proceeded from Earith in a northerly direction, by Chatteris-ferry, to Benwick, where it united with the river Nene, with which it continued to Shrewsness Point, and being there joined by the Old Welney river, (a branch thrown off from the West River before described, at Littleport, and proceeding from thence by Welney,) they continued in one course by Upwell, Outwell, and Elm (dividing the Isle of Ely from Norfolk) to Wisbech, then passing by Gunthorp to Cross Keys Wash, or Wisbech Outfall, it entered the German Ocean. This old course of the West-water and the branch by

Welney are now nearly grown up, though still forming, in many places, the boundary line between the Isle of Ely and the counties of Huntingdon and Norfolk.

The works of the Adventurers for the drainage of the Fens, and the present course of the Ouse-water, have entirely closed the antient navigation<sup>c</sup> which existed between the port of Wisbech and this county, as far as the borough of Huntingdon ; nevertheless, the enquiring reader may find in Wattson's " History of Wisbech," many curious statements, and much ingenious reasoning, upon this event, which in some measure lead to the comparative decay of that harbour, which he insists was antiently the only outfall for our upland waters.

Mr. Wattson's argument, we may briefly remark, is, that the Welney river from Littleport was the original and chief course of the Ouse to the sea, to the entire exclusion of the outfall at Lynn, and that the junction of the great Ouse with the Brandon or lesser Ouse, by Littleport-chair, was a mere artificial cut, made for the purpose of drainage, when the neglect of sewers, &c. had so silted up Wisbech harbour, that it became an inefficient outfall, and

<sup>c</sup> A navigation is restored between these districts by a Canal made from Wisbech to Outwell, being a distance of about six miles, and which, being there joined by the river Nene, follows its course to Salter's Lode Sluice, where, a little below Denver Sluice, it enters the river Ouse.—The Wisbech Canal Act was passed in the year 1793.

observes,<sup>d</sup> “ it was probably made in the time of Edward 1st, about 1274.”

By Inquests in the reign of Edward 1st, which we shall immediately refer to, it appears that an ancient navigation for vessels of burthen between the ports of Lynn and other ports, and the town of Huntingdon, had at that time been but recently obstructed. But what is equally destructive of Mr. Wattson's argument, is, that in no one of these inquests is the port of Wisbech named in express words, but only “ the ports of Lenn and other ports,” so that the period assigned for this supposed cut is either erroneous, or the supposition of a cut altogether fallacious. To this we may add, the river is called the Ouse both above and below this reputed cut, which is commonly called the ten-mile river,<sup>e</sup> which, had they been two distinct unconnected rivers, would not have obtained. Mr. W. admits too much on the mere statement of Dugdale and Wadeslade: the former observes,<sup>f</sup> that “ the river Ouse, its outfall by Wisbech decaying, was not only cut straight, but by a new river made from Littleport-chair to Rebeck, was let fall into

<sup>d</sup> History of Wisbech, p. 24.

<sup>e</sup> Mr. Wells adopts the same opinions, perhaps on the same authorities: “ The River from Little-port Bridge to Denver Sluice is called the ten-mile river. It is not known at what period the antient course of the old River was diverted from its outfall by Wisbech into its present channel to Lynn.”—*Wells's History of the Bedford Level*.

<sup>f</sup> Dugdale, p. 372.



Ouse Parva or Brandon Water, and thence by Salter's Lode to Lynn Haven, its former course to Littleport being by Wellenhee or Welle, and so to the North Sea at Wisbech ;" and the latter,<sup>s</sup> that " a record vouched by Mr. Hexham, surveyor to William Earl of Arundel, shews that at some time there was no river between Littleport-chair and Rebeck." There cannot be a question, but that anterior to and in the reign of Edward 1st, the upland waters found their way naturally by the river Ouse, and furnished for themselves a sufficient scour to both ports, but that the silting-up of Wisbech harbour, occasioned by a defective system of embanking, calculated to promote the partial instead of the general interests of the fens, and the subsequent neglect of works of sewers, destroyed it, as an outfall, and thus diverted nearly the whole of the waters to Lynn, by the Old West River, which, aided by the operation of the " hundred feet river," lead to the growing up of the Old West-water and the Welney Rivers.

The present course of the Ouse, as above described, the drainage dependent upon it, the antient and present state of its navigation, as far as is connected with the town of Godmanchester, are all that can properly be considered in this work.

The navigation of the river Ouse from Godmanchester and Huntingdon, to the ports of Lynn and

<sup>s</sup> Badeslade—see History of Wisbech, p. 24.

Wisbech, was, doubtless, more effective in antient times than at the present day, when the unobstructed course of the waters worked their own channel and scour, and the principal barriers to their free course were some comparatively few public bridges, as at Huntingdon and St. Ives. The erection of mills, and accompanying bars across the stream to force the waters through them, by the King, (in royal manors,) public bodies, or private individuals, lead to the silting-up of the river; hence, in all complaints relative to the obstruction of this navigation, we find that these are the chief causes alleged. In Domesday-book, the only mills returned as being then on the Ouse,<sup>b</sup> were

Brampton.....	2 mills red ..	100 solid. to King Edw. the Conf.
Godmanchester..	3 mills red ..	100 solid. to King Edward.
Buckden.....	1 mill red ..	30 solid. to the Bp. of Lincoln.
Pachstone.....	3 mills red ..	64 solid. to King Edward.

which mills (there being no documentary evidence to falsify the position) precluded the possibility of the navigation having at that time extended beyond Godmanchester. Sir Robert Cotton<sup>i</sup> has prescribed to it these limits:—"To this shire-town, and benefit of the neighbour countries, this river was navigable, until the power of Grey, a minion

<sup>b</sup> The mill at Huntingdon, it is true, is noticed in Domesday; but being on a mere tributary stream, and not the main course of the Ouse, is not inserted above.

<sup>i</sup> In Speed's Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain—Art. Huntingdonshire.

of the time, stopt that passage, and with it all redress either by law or parliament."

Amongst the Hundred Rolls in the Tower, in the 4th of Edward 1st, is an inquest relative to the then state of the river, when the town of Huntingdon answered :

A° 4 EDW. 1. ROT. EXTRACT' COM HUNTED' NO. 2.

VILLATA DE HUNTED'.

Dicūt qđ naves que venire solebāt cum m̃candisis suis ad Burgum de Hunded' de ptibz de Lenn et aliis ptibz impediunt' p quoddā stagnū levatum p Reginaldum de Grey ad đapnū Burgi et tocius p̃rie et capiunt passagiū ubi null' cap solebat.

Dicunt et qđ p̃dce naves impediunt' p exclus' Abbtis de Rames' fcas apud Houton.

Et simiļr p exclus' Prior Hunt' apud Herford.

"That ships which antiently were accustomed to navigate with their merchandise to the Borough of Huntingdon from the Port of Lenn, and other ports, are prevented by an obstruction in the river, formed by Reginald de Grey, to the injury of the borough and neighbourhood, and that they took tolls for the same, which are now lost;

"And that the said ships are obstructed at Houton, by a barrier made by the Abbot of Ramsey.

"And in like manner at Herford, by a barrier formed by the Prior of Huntingdon."

This Reginald de Grey was an influential person in the Courts of Henry 3d and Edward 1st, for which reason possibly his encroachment on the

river, though so destructive to the navigation and injurious to the country, was connived at. We find his name subscribed as a witness to the “Carta foundationis Abbatiae Dernhallensis in Agro Cestrensi,”<sup>k</sup> where he is called “Reginald de Grey tunc Justiciario Cestriae, A.D. 1270;” and also in the chart<sup>l</sup> of the lands and possessions of the convent and abbey of St. Edmunds, Nov. 16, 1281, the 10th of Edward the 1st. In the 56th of Henry 3d, A.D. 1272, his lands at Hemmingford, &c. escheated<sup>m</sup> to the crown in default of homage, but were restored to him on the payment of a fine, and about this period we may conjecture that he built the first mills ever erected there. In 1276, 4th of Edward 1st, Hemmingford was returned to the Crown Office as being in the fee<sup>n</sup> of Reginald de Grey,<sup>o</sup> but in the 4th of Edward the 2d, was granted to John de Grey,<sup>p</sup>

<sup>k</sup> Cart. 54, Hen. 3d.—*Dugdale's Mon. Ang.*

<sup>l</sup> Ex registro Abbatiae S. Edmundi in officio Duc. Lanc. fol. 84.

<sup>m</sup> “Dicunt q'd Rats de Waldeschef subescaetor Reg' cepit seis<sup>a</sup>m de t'ris Regin' de Grey apud Hemmyngford et Gillingg' anno r' Reg' H. p'ris Reg' nu'c lvi. &c. et tenet se'iam p vij dies p'ea ven'unt hoies Regin' de Grey,” &c.—*Rotul. Hun. 4 Edw. 1.*

<sup>n</sup> “D'sectis antiquis' cons' sv'iciis et aliis rebz, &c.

Hemmyngford de feod Regin de Grey.”—*Rot. Hun. 4 Ed. 1.*

<sup>o</sup> He was, moreover, an honorary or parliamentary baron by reason of his tenure, and received writ of summons to parliament in the 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, and 35 Edward 1st, and the 1st and 2d of Edward 2d.

<sup>p</sup> Towlesland. Johes de Gray fil Reginald de Gray dat Regi I<sup>a</sup> p. m. de Toulesland tent de R. in Cap. ut de Honor Hunt. de ppart Robbi de Brus in man' R. existen p s'vic dimid feod mil

his son and successor,<sup>a</sup> to be held, subject to service in capite of the King.

From all which we may conclude that the parish or manor, called Hemingford Grey, in the time of Edward 1st, was the property of Reginald de Grey, to which his name was appended to distinguish its boundaries from the lands then in possession of the Abbots of Ramsey, which were given to them by King Hardicanute, A.D. 1041,<sup>r</sup> and from the Lords of the Fee, called Hemingford Abbots.

To a subsequent inquest held on the 7th of Edward 1st, the inhabitants of Huntingdon answered—

“That Reginald de Grey has done great injury to the high river of our Lord the King, between Hemingford and Huntingdon, by diverting its course through his mills<sup>s</sup> at Hemingford, so that boats and ships, which were

et 25<sup>a</sup>—p quibusdm teutis in Hemyngford tent de R. in Cap p s'vic 4 ptis un' feod mil.—*Cole's Esch. Brit. Mus. Temp. Edw. scdus. M. ff. R. 4, Edw. 2d.*

<sup>a</sup> He received writs of summons to parliament in the 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16th of Edward 2d.—*Dugdale's Lists of Summons, &c.*

<sup>r</sup> As Hardicanute died A.D. 1042, and reigned only two years the gift of Hemingford to the Abbots of Ramsey was most probably in A.D. 1041. His festival was celebrated on the 6th of June, “Sexto Idus Junii obiit Hardcnute rex, qui dedit Hemingford;” and in the Rent Roll of the Abbey it was valued at £15 per ann.

*Lelandi Collectan*, vol. i. p. 842 & 844.

<sup>s</sup> Mills were erected on branch-streams cut from the river, and falling into the river again at some distance lower down; bars of clay and gravel were then placed entirely across the main river,

accustomed to navigate to the said borough of our Lord the King, are in consequence prevented.

“ And they say that the Abbot of Ramsey has caused a barrier to be placed in the high river of our Lord the King at his mills at Houton,<sup>t</sup> where ships and boats were accustomed to pass to the borough of our Lord the King, and that in like manner they are there obstructed.”

In a Quo Warranto plea before Commissioners appointed under the Great Seal, to investigate

of such height as to keep up heads of water, thus forcing the chief current through the mills, destroying all navigation by the antient channel, and by their obstruction to its course, causing it to overflow and drown the contiguous low lands and meadows after heavy rains or sudden thaws of ice and snow.

<sup>t</sup> The gift of Houton and Witton, to the monks of Ramsey, occurred amongst its earliest endowments; they were presented by Alfwold, the brother of Ailwin the founder, who died A. D. 990.

“ In what manner the town of Hoeton was granted to us.

“ Alfwold, of pious memory, brother to Ailwyn the alderman, a person eminent amongst his contemporaries for the four great accomplishments of secular wisdom, military prowess, nobility of birth, and elegant manners, rivalling the faith and devotion of his brother, gave to God and St. Benedict of Ramsey, Hoeton and Witton, Ripton also with Wenington, Bitherne and Elinton, with the noble munificence of a soul, whose bounty will be recorded for ever; providing for himself in the same place the recompence of being remembered, and the credit of being buried there. But at his request, and with consent of the Friars of Ramsey, Alfeld, his lawful wife, held all the said lands, except Hoeton and Witton, during her life, as usufructuary, in the name of the church; to give up, at her death, the possession of them to the said church, under the just title of the first donation.”—*History of Ramsey Monastery*, chap. 31st.

these matters, bearing date the 11th of October, 2d of Edward 1st.

"The hand-writing of the said Countess Alfild, wife of the above-mentioned Earl Alfwold, containing how just before her death she gave up to the church of Ramsey, Ripton, and Wenington, and Elinton and Bitherne.

"In the name of the Most High Lord God, I, Alfild, make known to all my friends what disposition I have made of all my substance and possessions, which my husband, Earl Alfwold, granted to me and my children. First then I give to God, and to St. Mary, and to St. Benedict of Ramsey, the land of Ripton, and the land of Wenington, and the land of Elinton, in the same manner as my aforesaid husband Alfwold, in his life-time, gave the same by word of mouth to the church. I grant also to Ænoth, my daughter's son, that if the Friars of Ramsey are willing to receive him as a monk, the land at Bitherne shall pass with him, into the possession of Ramsey; but if they refuse to receive him, nevertheless I give the aforesaid lands to the said church for the health of my soul. I also give to Almar, my chaplain, my lands at Clopton, to be held free during his life; and after his decease, let them pass, with the rest of my lands, to the church of Ramsey. And I intreat God Almighty, that, whosoever, either of my parents, or any other, shall presume to contravene this writing, or make any change in the above donations, that person may incur, together with the reprobate angels, the wrath of the Everlasting Judge—Amen."—*Hist. Ramsey*, ch. 32d.

"Anno dccccxc obiit Alfwoldus comes frater Ailwini, qui dedit Ramesiæ Hotton et Witton, Rippon cum Weington, Bithern cum Elinton, et Ramesia sepelitur."—*Ex Registro de Rams.*

GENEALOGY OF ALFWOLD, 4TH SON OF DUKE ÆTHELSTAN.

In the days of King Æthelstan there was a certain Duke in the East-angles named Athelstan, half Kineg—that is half King. He took to wife Alfwen, who nursed and educated Edgar, &c. The said Duke Athelstan had by his wife four sons—1st Ethelwold; 2d, Alfwold; 3d, Ethelfinis; 4th, Ailwine, the founder of Ramsey Abbey.—*Ex Registro de Ramsey.*

Presentatū fuit alias coram Sampson Folyot et Edm de Caldecote qđ naves que venire solebant et debēt cū m̄chandizis suis apud Huntendon' burgū de ptibz de Len' et aliis ptibz impeditae sunt p stagnū Regin' de Grey et similiter p exclusas Abb̄tis de Rameseye apud Hoghton' et p exclusas prioris de Hunt' apud Herford' et similiter p cursū aque et in pte p manuopacōm Abb̄tis de Rameseye et hoīum suorū fcūs est quidam p̄vus rivulus qui quidam rivulus att̄hit maximam ptem aque antiqui cursus ita qđ naves t̄nsire non possunt nec uno alveo nec alio ad magnū det̄mentū villate de Huntendon et toti⁹ patrie.

Et sup hoc Attorn' Abb̄tis de Rameseye req̄situs si fūit ad nocumentū p̄dci Abb̄tis si p̄das alveus obstructus sit—dicit qđ sic.

It was presented before Sampson Folyot and Edmund de Caldecote, that ships which were accustomed and had right to navigate with their merchandise to the borough of Huntingdon, from the ports of Len and other ports, are hindered by the obstructions of Reginald de Grey, and also by dams formed across the river by the Abbot of Ramsey at Hoghton, and in like manner by dams of the Prior of Huntingdon, at Herford; and also in part by a certain small river or water course, made by the Abbot of Ramsey and his agents, which said rivulet diverts the greater part of the waters from their antient course, so that ships cannot navigate by the one stream or the other, to the great injury of the town of Huntingdon and the whole neighbourhood.

Upon which it was demanded of the Attorney of the Abbot of Ramsey, whether it would be to the injury of the said Abbot, if



Et sup hoc ꝑceptū est vic' qd fac' ꝑdcam Abbtem venire et simili? Reginaldū de Grey coram Thes' et Baron' de Scacio apud Westm' in crastino Sci Andr' &c.

Placita de Quo Warranto  
Temp. Ed. 1<sup>st</sup>.

the aforesaid water-course were blocked up? who replied, that it would. Whereupon a precept was directed to the Sheriff, commanding that he cause the aforesaid Abbot, and in like manner Reginald de Grey, to appear before the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer at Westminster on the morrow of St. Andrew, &c.

These Inquests indubitably prove, that, previous to the erection of mills at Hemingford, Houghton, and Hartford, there was an effective navigation to the ports of Lynn, &c. from Huntingdon, and consequently from Godmanchester. In these pleas the suitors appear chiefly to have been the inhabitants of Huntingdon, who felt aggrieved at their loss of port tolls and gernerage, and who, perhaps, foresaw the impoverishment of their town, from its commercial importance being destroyed, an issue fully realized, though but little considered amongst the causes which led to the decay of that once populous, extensive, and opulent Borough.<sup>u</sup> From the defective registry of antient

<sup>u</sup> It is curious to observe that these effects are attributed by Historians to the ravages of the plague; and even in a grant of GERNERAGE to the inhabitants of Huntingdon, in aid of the fee-farm rent in the 37th Edward 3d, the same cause for the impoverishment of the town is principally urged: "We, considering that the said town of Huntingdon, as well by mortal pestilence as

law records, and destruction of the valuable MSS. of religious houses at the Reformation, it is impossible now to ascertain what farther proceedings, if any, were instituted by the inhabitants of Huntingdon against Reginald de Grey, the Abbot of Ramsey and Prior of Huntingdon; indeed they appear from henceforth acting but a very subordinate part in any efforts to restore the navigation; and the domination of the Abbot and Prior over the whole course of the stream continued until the commencement of the fifteenth century. The obstructions in the river, and consequent frequent inundations of the town and meadows of Godmanchester, led to continual protests from its tenants and inhabitants, who, at length carrying their complaints into the Dutchy Court, obtained, A.D. 1415,\* a decree against the Prior of Huntingdon, whereby Commissioners were appointed "to view the premises at Hartford, and the level and course of the water, and to assign a floodgate or lawseyard, or

by various other sudden adversities, is so *weakened and destroyed that a fourth part of the same town is not inhabited,*" &c. In this grant "various other sudden adversities" are allowed to have had their influence, and it must occur to the most ordinary observer, that the effects of depopulation from plague or accidental sickness would speedily have been remedied if a profitable investment of capital had continued; but the destruction of the navigation permanently crippled the commerce of Huntingdon, by destroying it as an inland port, reducing its traders to a dependence on its mere home consumption, and the traffic of the immediate neighbourhood.

\* Record in Duc. Lanc.

floodgates or lawseyards, conveniently to turn the course of the water to the said mills in such place, &c., and of such reasonable height, length, breadth, &c., as they might see fit, doing least hurt to the parties, and the said tenants and others, inhabitants adjoining." This partial reformation proving ineffectual in the prevention of floods, the men of Godmanchester, in times of high-water, formed gulls and breaks in the banks of the river above Houghton and Hemingford; and, resolute on restoring the navigation, cut through the dams across the stream at both those places, to the annoyance of the Abbot and his tenants, and the injury of their mills, when, after divers actions at common law filed by the Abbot, "w<sup>ch</sup> caused greate losse and grudging upon both p'ties," an arrangement of their claims took place, and an indenture of agreement with respect to them was formed under the direction of the Dutchy Court, protecting the Abbot and convent, and their successors, in the property of the mills, by restraining the men of Godmanchester from making gulls, &c., and setting forth that "the damminges and excluses shal be made and pitched of such reasonable and convenient height, that by keeping upp of water by the said excluses the meadowes and pastures of the said towne of Gumecester adioyneng to the said river shal not be drowned nor surrounded w<sup>th</sup> water. And if any default now or hereafter happen to be in the setting of the said excluses or dammynges,

that then such defaultes at all tymes shal be reformed by the oversight of the Councelle of the said Dutchey for the tyme being, and not by the said Bailiffes, Men, Coialtie, Tennants, Residents, and Inhabitants, their heirs or successors, nor none of them." This indenture, bearing date Nov. 10th, A.D. 1467, 7th of Edward 4th, placing the control of the waters under the supervision of the Dutchy Court, defined also the right of fishing mutually claimed by the contending parties; and what was of manifold more importance to this and the neighbouring county of Bedford, laid the foundation of that navigation which has been in no small degree instrumental in restoring them to whatever commercial importance they have since attained. It recites—

"That the said Bailiffes, Men, Coialtie, Ten<sup>ants</sup>, Residents and Inhabitants, their heires and successors, shall have henceforth free passage in the said river w<sup>th</sup> such shepps, boates, and all manner vessels, more and less, as the said river may beare in all places to come fro the said towne of Huntingdon unto a banke nigh one of the said mills, called the drawing place, and there to be discharged of their carriage and lay it on the said banke, and there over the said banke the said vessels to be pulled over, and soe shoven furth into the said river againe beneath the said excluses, and then in all convenient and goodly hast to be charged agen w<sup>thout</sup> any thing paying therefore."

A clumsy method of navigation it must be confessed, but which, however imperfect it may appear, not only lead to the future opening of the river,

but brought their contentions for a time to an amicable issue, and caused the subsequent exemption from navigation tolls at the sluices since erected at Houghton and Hemingford, and the staunch below St. Ives, to which the tenants of Godmanchester, in common with others, would have been now subject. At the suit of both parties, this indenture was confirmed by the letters-patent of Henry the Sixth, A.D. 1470.<sup>7</sup>

The rise of the river after heavy rains or sudden thaws of ice and snow, still subjecting the meadows to frequent floods, the liability of the Abbot of Ramsey to make reparation in the Dutchy Court for damages sustained, and the hierarchy of catholicism trembling in the exercise of its declining power, induced the Abbot to remove the bank of earth and build "ov'whart the medyll course of the said ryver a greate frame of woodwark with vij fludgats," which, under proper management, might have facilitated the passage of the waters downwards; but even this obstruction in their natural channel forced a considerable part of the upland waters through an antient water course, called Gumecestre drayne, (now the back-waters,) which in times of and after floods proved highly service-

<sup>7</sup> The letters-patent are dated the 49th year of his reign and the first year of his restoration. Henry the Sixth was this year restored to the throne by the Earl of Warwick, but died a few days after the fatal battle of Tewksbury, which was fought on the 4th of May, 1471.

able in the drainage of the meadows, and yet was so regulated by gates, at other times, as not to divert sufficient water from the main river, to injure the mills at Houghton. Notwithstanding this precaution, the Abbot thought proper to bank it up, which induced “the King’s tenants at Godmanchester and Huntyngdon” to proceed against him in the Dutchy Court, where they obtained a decree in Michaelmas Term, 1515, restraining the Abbot from obstructing the water through Godmanchester drain, and ordering, for the protection of the meadows, the erection of a lawseyard, at the sole expense of the Abbot, at the junction of the lordships of Godmanchester and Hemingford,<sup>z</sup> for the continual passage of waste water; and further commanding the tenants and farmers of his mills to draw their gates in times of floods, or in default thereof vesting a discretionary power of doing so in the tenants of Godmanchester, “w<sup>t</sup>out let, interupcion, or gayneseying of the seid Abbott, his successours, their seid tenants and fermers, or of any of them, and them styll to kepe upp drawen tyll the seid fluds and outrageous waters ben past and abayted;” and also to remove “dammes and gulls for the avoyding of the seid water w<sup>t</sup>out any lett, vexacion, or disturbance of the seid Abbot, or any other for hym.” This decree of 1515 was confirmed

<sup>z</sup> Where the rivulet complained of in the Quo Warranto Plea, p.193, had been formed.

by the letters patent of Henry 8th, bearing date June 20th, 1524: and which, being the basis on which subsequent legislative enactments have confirmed the authority of the Corporation of Godmanchester over the sluices at Hemingford and Houghton, and the staunch below St. Ives, we here insert.

Henricus octavus dei gra<sup>9</sup> Anglie et Francie Rex—fidei defensor et Dñs Hiñnie Omnibz ad quos pñtes ire nre<sup>9</sup> puenin<sup>9</sup> Saltm.—Inspeximus tenorem cuiusdm̄ actus sive decretum in Cam̄a ducat<sup>9</sup> Lanc' apud Westm̄ inter Record et in filia<sup>9</sup> eiusdm̄ Ducat<sup>9</sup> ibm remanens et existend in hec verba.

TERMINO S'CI MICHS Aº. R<sup>1</sup>. H. viij—vijo.

WHEREAS complaynt hath ben made to the Chancells and Counceill of the Duchie of Lanc<sup>9</sup> on the behalff of the kyngs ten<sup>nts</sup> and inhabitauntes of his townes of Godmanchester and Huntyngdon ten<sup>nts</sup> of the seid Duchie agenst the Abbot of Ramsey that where as the Kyng's seid townes of Godmanchester and Huntyngdon ar<sup>9</sup> set buylded uppon the Kyng's high streme or ryver called Owse, whiche streme descendyth from Huntyngdon brigge toward the See playne eastward till hit cometh to Howghton a towne of the seid Abbotts of Ramsey and howe that at that towne o<sup>th</sup>whart the medyll course of the seid ryver is set a greate frame of woodwark wth vij fludgats, wherby the seid water ys devyded and compelled oon<sup>9</sup> pt therof to goo and hold his course north east to certeyn corne mylles of the seid Abbott a litell ther besyd and thother pt of the seid water soe devyded to have his course south east to a fulling mille of the seid Abbott till that a greate dame or banke of erthe there o<sup>th</sup>thwart the course of that pt of the water was made by the seid Abbott

and howe that nowe of late the same Abbott made a nother greate dame or bank of erthe oſthwart oon other water course called Gumeceſ Drayne comyng out of pt of the cornefelds medowes and pastures of the seid towne of Godmācheſter and descending undra brygge called Hemyngford brygge towards the See. So that alle the water as well of the hoole ryver as of the seid drayne was compelled by reason of the seid fludgats and dammes to go thurgh the seid corne mylles or ells to retorn agayne westwades and surrounde and oſflowe the medowes pastures and erable felds of the Kyng's seid townes of Gumnecheſter and Huntingdon as many moo townes estwards towards Seynt Nedys to the hurt and damage of the seid townes and inhabitants of the same and further of that the seid Abbott mysuſeth hymself in the seid streme as in the seid complaynt therof made appereth more at large. Wheruppon the seid Abbott was called before the seid Chancellor and Councail and before them made his aunswere and for th examinacon of the seid compleynt and other the pmisses a Commyſſion was directed to certeyn psones to examyn the seid complaynte and other the pmisses aswell by viue of the grounde, othe, witness examynacon, as otherwise. Wheruppon the seid Commyſſioners according to ther seid auctoritie endeavored themselves and certyfyed that they not oonly enquired of the seid complaynte and other the pmisses by the othes of the moost auncient psones long dwellers and abyders in those pts, but also vewed the seid stremes and water courses and the milles dammes fludgats of late yeres rereryd upon the same not oonly by the seid now Abbott, but also by the Erle of Kent the which rearing and misuse of the same is the greate losse and anoyance of alle the Kyng's tenants and alle other inhabitants thereabouts and greater shulde be yf hit shuld so



contynue w<sup>t</sup>out reformation as in the seyd certyficat appereth more at large.

Whereuppon Maister Woode of Lyncoln's Inne and Willm Grace being of Councell w<sup>t</sup> the seyd Abbott were called before the seyd Chancells and Councell not oonly to the hering of the seyd certyficat but also to the syght of a carte whiche was made and brought forth of the seyd water courses of Owse and other the pmisses by the sight wherof and also by the seyd certyficat it appered and coude not be denyed but by the misordering of the seyd mylles dammes and fludgats in keping hye and stopping upp of the seyd waters of Owse and drayne ferre o<sup>f</sup>e and above that hit hath byn used to be kept in tymes past and by occasion of the same as well the medowes and pastures as the errable felde there of all the tenants and inhabitauntes thereabout were yerely surrounded and o<sup>f</sup>flowen to the greate impo<sup>f</sup>ysshement of alle the Kyng's seyd tenants and the inhabitauntes in the countre thereabouts and to their utter undoing yf hit shulde be suffered soe to conteneue. For reformation whereof and for that the seyd water courses mylles and fludgats may and shuld be hereafter in suche wyse ordered that the seyd meadowes fealds and pastures be not at any tyme surrounded except in tyme of outrageous flods hit is by the seyd Chaunceller and Councell as well by assent of the Councell of the seyd Abbott as by assent of the Kyng's seyd tenants decreed and ordered in manner and forme folowyng

Fyrst—that from hensforth there be not at any tyme any damme or dammes or estoppyngs made by the seyd Abbott or by his successors nor by any other for them o<sup>f</sup>thwart any pt of the seyd water course called Gumices<sup>e</sup> Drayne wherby the water of that dreyn shuld or myght

be letted of his course or estopped at any tyme: hit is also ordered by the seid Chaunceller and Councell that in all convenient hast there shall be a lawseyard of tymbre made that shall conteyne in brede from syde to syde 24 foote to be fyxed and sett uppon the syde of the seid ryver or water of Owse the oon<sup>e</sup> pt therof uppon the soyle or grounde of the seid Abbott in Hemynford medowe and the other pte therof uppon the Kyng's soyle or grounde in Gumaces<sup>e</sup> aforeseid and that alle the tymbre and other stuff of and for the seid lawseyard, and the caryage of the same aswell for the newe makyng nowe thereof as at alle tymes hereafter for the repaying of the same to be pryded at the oonly costs and charges of the seid Abbott and his successours and the workmanship nowe therof and at alle other tymes hereafter for and in the repaying to be at the costs and charges aswell of the seid Abbott and of his successours as of the Kyng's seid tenants evynly to be dyvyded.

And Furthermore hit is ordeyned that a cōmyssion shal be dyrected under the Duchie Sealle to———— that they iiij or too of them wherof the seid ——— be oon<sup>e</sup> by vertue of the seid Cōmyssion do see that after the seid lawseyard be made framed and redy to be sett up<sup>p</sup> the same lawsyard be pytched set and fyxed in the place beforesaid at suche reasonable and convenient hyght under the hyght of the bank of the seid ryver that so moche water of the same ryver may be reſved and kept in to goo to the seid mylles as by the seid Cōmissioners shal be thought resonable for the necessarie going of the same mylles w<sup>o</sup>ut drownynge of the seid londs medowes and pastures (except it be in tyme of outragious flods) and the residue of alle the seid water discending by the seid ryver to be suffered at alle tymes to goo and holde his course o<sup>v</sup>r the seid lawseyard and from thens to the

seid drayne called Gunnecestur Drayne w<sup>o</sup>ut lett at any tyme of the seid Abbott or of his successours : and that in tyme of suche fluds and rage of waters the same Abbott and his successours ther ten<sup>a</sup>nts and fermers of there seid mylles in alle convenyent and goodly hast for the speady and hasty avvoyding of the seid waters from tyme to tyme to drawe and pull up<sup>p</sup> alle the seid fludgats wherby the seid outrageous waters may aswell passe and goo that wayes as o<sup>f</sup>e the seid lawseward : and in case the seid Abbott his successours ther seid ten<sup>a</sup>nts and fermers or any of them at any tyme wold be remysed or negligent in this doing, then and so often by force of this orden<sup>u</sup>nce and direct<sup>i</sup>on it shalbe lafull to the Kyng's seid ten<sup>a</sup>nts and to e<sup>v</sup>ry of them to drawe and pull upp the seid fludgats w<sup>o</sup>ut let interupcion or gayneseying of the seid Abbott his successours their seid ten<sup>a</sup>nts and fermers or of any of them and them styll to kepe up<sup>p</sup> drawn tyll the seid fluds and outrageous waters ben past and abayed.

And hit is further ordered by the seid Chaunceller and Councill that unto suche tyme as the seid lawseyard be framed made and set up<sup>p</sup> in maner and forme abovesaid that aswell the seid Abbott as the King's seid ten<sup>a</sup>nts doo use themselves in evy<sup>9</sup>thing according to such ordure and dereccions as of late was taken betwene them by the Kyng's late seid Cōmissioners wherunto the seid pties assented and subscribed their names : that is to say that the seid Abbott shall at his li<sup>b</sup>tie and pleasure make or cause to be made and also amende alle suche goulls breks and banks wherby ony water goth from his seid milles out of the water and ryver of Owse and also to have holde kepe and enjoy alle the seid water milles fludgats and dammes standing upon the seid water of Owse as they now doo stonde w<sup>o</sup>ut any lett or interupcion of any of the King's seid ten<sup>a</sup>nts of Gunnecester and that the seid

Abbott and his Assignes shall kepe out and not to suffre any water of the seid ryver of Owse to surrounde and offlowe any of the medowes leasures and pastures or erable grounds of the King's seid ten<sup>nts</sup> of Gunnyces<sup>l</sup> by reason of the seid fludgats dammes mylles and breks in the default of the seid Abbott and his Assignes onles yt be by reason of outrageous or greate fluds of water. And yf the seid Abbott or his Assignes otherwyse misordure themselffs at eny tyme to come that then the seid Abbott is content and agreed, and also graunteth that hit shall be lawful to the Kyng's seid ten<sup>nts</sup> that so truly shall fynde them grieved to take upp<sup>e</sup> the fludgats of the seid Abbott and other dammes and gulls for the avoyding of the seid water w<sup>o</sup>ut any lett vexacion or disturbance of the seid Abbott or any other for hym.

Nos autem tenorem Record p<sup>re</sup>dict ad instanciam Ballior<sup>o</sup> de Gunnecestr<sup>o</sup> nr<sup>o</sup> et Coital<sup>is</sup> eiusd<sup>m</sup> duximus exemplificand p<sup>er</sup> p<sup>re</sup>ntes In cuius Rei testioni<sup>o</sup> has lras nr<sup>as</sup> fecimus patentes. Dat London<sup>is</sup> sub sigillo Ducat s<sup>er</sup>ni Lan<sup>ce</sup> p<sup>re</sup>dicti vicesimo die Junii Anno Regni s<sup>er</sup>ni sextodecimo.

By this decree the regulation of the waters was transferred from the Dutchy Court to the men of Godmanchester, leaving the abuse of their authority to the remedy of an action by plea of trespass. The exercise of this newly delegated power soon led to contentions between the rival interests of the landholders and millers at Houghton and Hemingford ; and early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth various contentions at common law relative to opening gulls, &c. took place between the men of Godmanchester and Richard Tryce, Esq., who had become tenant of the mills at Houghton

on a lease of £12 per annum, and who also, being then tenant of Hemingford mills, obstructed the passage of the waters there, “by a bank overwhart the river.” These vexatious litigations and proceedings were arrested on the petition of John Normanton and John Herne, Bailiffs and men of Godmanchester, to Sir Ralph Sadler, Knt., Chancellor of the Dutchy, who directed that a Commission of Sewers should be held at Huntingdon, touching the premises, and which Commission of Sewers reformed the abuse by recognizing the Decree of 1515, and ordering the obstruction to be removed.

A.D. 1591.—“A Comission of Sewers kepthe att Huntington the 25th Day of July in the 34 Eliz. before the Right Reverend Father in God William Lord Bpp of Lincolne and divers others.

<sup>20</sup> AR. “Itm.—It is further presented by the Jury aforesaid that Richard Tryce Esq. hathe caused a bancke to be made overwhart the river at the end of a holt of Robert Sissons in the parrish of Hemingeford to the turning of the water of the river to his milles at Hemingeford to the great damage of the surroundinge of the medowes thereabouts: for redresse whereof we the aforesaid Commissioners doe order by these p̄sents that the said bancke of earthe made in the said river and all other things belonging to the same beinge impediments and annoyances to the passage of the water in the said river accordinge to the auncient course shal be clensed and clearly taken away to the bottome of the said river by the said Richard Tryce his Executors or Assignes before the first day of July next ensuinge and the same afterwards to be kept

open by him and his assignes upon payne of forfeiture of twenty pounds to the Queens Ma<sup>tie</sup> her heires and successors for not doinge the same.

“ The names of such townes whose medowes and pastures are surrounded by the stoppedge of the warter by the aforementioned bancke of earth upon any great raine.

Offord Cluny	Huntingdon	Brampton
Bugden	Hartford	Godmanchester
Witton	Houghton	Hemingford Abbots

And likewise in 7 Hen. 8, there is a decree under the Duchie Seale that yt shal be lawfull for the men of Godmanchester to pull upp the bancks and gulls in tyme of fluds w<sup>h</sup> weare then belonginge unto the Abbot of Ramsey, yf that fludgats were not erected for the avoidinge of the same waters wh<sup>ch</sup> they have always done upon occasion, w<sup>ch</sup> said gulls and bancks are the next adioyning unto the aforementioned banck.”

Even at this period, the close of the 16th century, no improvement in the method of navigating the river had been effected upon the one established by the men of Godmanchester in the indenture of 1467; nor, until the 3d of Charles the 1st, was any systematic attempt made to attain this important object: when Arnold Spencer, under the authority and protection of letters-patent, granted to him and his assigns, engaged in the undertaking. By subsequent letters-patent, dated 11th of December, 1638, (14th Charles 1st,) which recite that Arnold Spencer, by virtue of letters-patent, dated 3d Jan. 1628, “ hath made navigable and completed our river of Ouse, from a town called St. Ives to a town called St. Neots, and thence to within four miles of

Bedford,"—"the only and absolute use and benefit of all and singular the water-carriage in and upon the said river Ouse from St. Ives to St. Neots, and so far as the same is made navigable higher up," are assured to the said Arnold Spencer, his heirs and assigns, on the payment of a yearly fee-farm rent of £6 13s. 4d., with a provision that the said "Arnold Spencer, his heirs and assigns, at his and their proper charge and cost, from time to time, as often as it shall be necessary, shall repair, sustain, and maintain, all bridges and locks in all places by him or any of them to be made upon the river aforesaid." As part of Spencer's scheme, the original staunch was built at Saint Ives; the sluices and locks at Houghton, Hemingford, Godmanchester, and other places first made; and with these that faulty system of navigation was commenced, which perpetuated the evil of summer floods, with their ruinous effects on the meadow lands: for, instead of scouring out the river, and removing the sand banks and bars formed of accumulated silt by the obstructions, which had so long prevented the free course of the waters, the river was banked in, and the gates of the sluices constructed of such a height, that the gravels and sand-banks might be navigated over.

Whether this ineffective method of opening the river proved at that time abortive, and ruinous to the plans of Spencer, and his consequent abandonment of them, or from any demise of the interest he had

thus acquired in the navigation, an Act of Parliament was passed in the 16th and 17th of Charles 2d, cap. 12, entitled, "An Act for making divers rivers navigable and otherwise passable for boats, barges, and other vessels," vesting the rights and profits of the navigation of the river Ouse, together with powers of making additional works, and extending it to the town of Bedford, in Sir Humphrey Bennet, Knight, and six others, and their Assigns. The Justices of the Peace for the time being of the counties through which the river runs were, by the Act, appointed Commissioners for awarding due compensation to those damnified by the forming of water-courses, hailing-paths, locks, sluices, dams, or other works necessarily connected with the navigation. The preamble of the Act sets forth, "That the said river being made navigable and passable for boats, barges, and other vessels, &c., will bring great advantages and profit to his Majesty's subjects, by preservation of meadows from summer floods, and to the improvement of the value of land and of trade, and the ease of repairing the high-ways," &c.; it is, therefore, in order to give a due limitation to the demands of the adventurers for water-carriage, provided, "that the said Sir Humphrey Bennet and others, authorized as aforesaid, for the making of the premises aforesaid, their and every of their respective heirs or assigns for ever, and no other, shall have use and employ barges, boats, lighters, or any other vessel



or vessels upon the said rivers, new rivers, rivulets, water-courses, brooks, streams, or new channels, or any other ways use the premises or any part thereof, having first given satisfaction; and shall have, hold, and peaceably and quietly enjoy, receive, demand, and take all and every the commodities, benefits, and advantages whatsoever, which shall or may from time to time, and at all times hereafter, be made, arise, grow, or become due, or payable for the carrying of corn, wood, iron, salt, timber, coal, or any other commodity or carriage whatsoever, by barge, boat, and lighter, or other-ways up or down the said rivers, or new rivers, rivulets, brooks, streams, water-courses, or new channels, or the said locks, wears, sluices, turnpikes, pens for water, cranes, wharfs, bridges, ways and foot-rails, or wharf-houses, in recompence of their great charges in making, keeping, and maintaining the said rivers, and new rivers, rivulets, brooks, streams, water-courses, and new channels navigable or passable; and the said locks, wears, sluices, turnpikes, pens for water, boats, barges, cranes and wharfs, and the said ways and passages, bridges and foot-rails useful, by force and virtue of this Act, any law, statute, usage, and custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding; provided always, that the carriage of goods by water shall not exceed the moiety of the carriage by land, to and from the respective places aforesaid; accordingly as hath been

usually paid for the like carriage in the several months in the year 1663. And for ascertaining the rates of land-carriage as aforesaid, the Commissioners in this Act, or any five of them, are hereby empowered to examine witnesses upon oath," &c. Provision is farther made, that "in case the said undertakers, or their respective heirs and assigns, or some of them, do not by or before the 1st of November, 1791, make the river Ouse above-mentioned navigable, so as barges, lighters, and other such like vessels, may pass laden at all times in the year, (the weather being open and the river within its usual and common banks,) from the place below Eton Mills, upon the said river, where it now ceaseth to be passable for such vessels, to the town of Bedford; and from thenceforward, the Commissioners appointed by this Act for the county of Bedford, may appoint and empower any other person or persons, who, their heirs or assigns, shall undertake and perfect the said navigation, upon the terms and limitations mentioned in this Act," &c. The tenants of Godmanchester are not expressly mentioned in the Act, but their privileges were reserved by the following clause: "Provided always, that all such boats of such burthen, in such manner, and for such uses as have been used or accustomed to pass in or upon any of the said rivers, or any of them, before the making, new cleansing, or scouring the said rivers, or enlarging the passages thereof, and other the aforesaid pre-

mises and the making this Act, shall and may continue freely to go or pass in or upon the said rivers, and other the premises, so far and in such a manner as was or is accustomed before the deepening, enlarging, or making thereof; this Act, or any thing herein contained to the contrary, in any wise notwithstanding."

The result of the undertaking of these adventurers is now as problematical as is that of Spencer's. In 1689, the proprietorship of the navigation was vested in Henry Ashley, Esq., of Gray's Inn, in the county of Middlesex, who had succeeded his father in the possession of the property, and who had for some time been lessee on a term of years then unexpired, of the sluices in Godmanchester. In that year the Bailiffs, Assistants and Commonalty, conveyed, for the consideration of £120, to H. Ashley, Esq., the younger, the fee simple of a piece of ground in Godmanchester, called "the Mill Holts,"<sup>a</sup> and all those sluices on the said piece of ground built, erected, and being the free passage and re-passage for barges and lighters through the said sluices, and all the profits," &c., at a reserved rent of five shillings per annum, with a farther reservation of their free passage through the sluices at Godmanchester, Hemingford, and Houghton, and their control over the waters for the necessary protection of the meadows, in these words: "The said Henry Ashley,<sup>b</sup> for himself, his heirs and

<sup>a</sup> Ashley's lease.

<sup>b</sup> *ib.*

assigns, doth covenant, promise, and grant to and with the said Bailiffs, Assistants and Commonalty, and their successors, that it shall and may be lawful to and for all and every the Freemen and Burghesses inhabiting and dwelling in the borough of Gumecester, alias Godmanchester, to have free liberty of passage and re-passage unto and through the said sluices in Godmanchester aforesaid, by these presents conveyed or mentioned, and intended to be conveyed ; and also through both the sluices below Godmanchester towards St. Ives, the one standing in or near Houghton and the other in or near Hemingford Grey, in the said county of Huntingdon ; with boats and lighters, both empty and freighted, and laden with all and any manner of burthens, goods, wares, loadings, materials for building, firing and coals, corn and grain, or any other thing whatsoever which shall be for their own use, or expence, or which shall be employed for any public use within the said borough, and not otherwise ; at all times for ever hereafter, without paying any manner of toll, sum or sums of money, to the said Henry Ashley, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, or to his or their agents, tenants, or servants, or any other person whatsoever, for or by reason of their passage or re-passage through the said sluices, through any or either of them.

“And moreover, that it shall and may be lawful for the miller of the said Godmanchester mills, for

the time being, and in his default or omission, for such person or persons, officer or officers, as shall be thereupon appointed by the Bailiffs of Godmanchester for the time being, for ever hereafter, upon every *likelihood and appearance of any flood, or outrage of water*, to set open and keep open, or else to take off the gates of the aforesaid [*Godmanchester*] sluices ; and also the gates of the sluices in and near Houghton ; and also the gates of the sluices in and near the mill of Hemingford Grey, in the said county of Huntingdon ; and lay them upon the lands by the side of the said sluices, until the water be fallen and the flood well abated."

In 1719, the still imperfect state of the navigation induced Ashley to apply to the Legislature for farther powers to remedy its defects, when an Act of Parliament was passed (6th Geo. I. cap. xxix.) called " An Act for preserving and improving the Navigation of the river Ouse, in the county of Huntingdon ;" the preamble of which recites, that " whereas the river Ouse, which runs through the counties of Huntingdon and Bedford, is become so shallow at or near St. Ives and other places in the said county of Huntingdon, that by reason thereof, and by reason of the decay of a certain work, formerly built and standing in the said river below St. Ives, commonly called St. Ives Staunch, boats and lighters cannot pass up the said river to St. Ives aforesaid, much less higher up the said river, as they used to do, except it be in times of flood or

high waters, to the great loss and detriment not only of the town of St. Ives aforesaid, but likewise of the counties of Huntingdon and Bedford, and other adjacent counties, which used to be supplied with coals and other commodities, by means of the navigation up the said river." By this Act, Ashley was empowered to repair and amend the passage for boats, lighters, &c., to cleanse the river at Holywell and elsewhere, to repair or re-build St. Ives Staunch, and execute all other necessary works, giving such compensation to owners of lands injured as should be settled by arbitration, or the Justices of the Peace in Quarter Sessions at Huntingdon. In consideration of which, additional tolls were to be demanded from those who navigated the river. Some apprehensions appear to have been felt as to the effects of the new staunch about to be erected producing floods or other inconveniences, to guard against which the following important clause was introduced: " And for the better government, use, and regulation of the said new staunch or new work so to be erected as aforesaid, according to the intent and meaning of this Act; and for prevention of any mischiefs and inconveniences which may ensue to the great level of the fens called Bedford Level, and the navigation of the river Ouse, and other the navigations and works of draining within the said Great Level, as well from inundations in times of floods, as of scarcity and want of water in dry seasons, or any

other emergencies, and also for the prevention of any abuses or ill uses to be made of the said staunch and works, and the powers and authorities hereby given to the said Henry Ashley, his heirs and assigns; and for the more effectual improving and preserving the navigation of the said river from the town of St. Ives to the port of Lynn, and of the waters within the same from being diverted out of the natural current of the said river: Be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that six of the Justices of the Peace for the said county of Huntingdon for the time being, to be yearly named and appointed at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held for the said county next after Easter, and a like number of the Commissioners of Sewers within the said Great Level of the Fens, to be yearly appointed by the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens at their meeting in April, shall be, and they are hereby constituted Commissioners, as well for the government, use, and regulation of the said staunch and the new work, and for the preventions of the mischiefs and inconveniences before mentioned, and preservation of the navigation and waters of the said river as aforesaid; and the said Commissioners or any five or more of them, of which number two at least to be of the number appointed by the said Justices for the said county of Huntingdon, and not less than two of the number appointed by the

Commissioners of Sewers within the said Great Level, shall and may from time to time assemble and meet together, when where and as often as they shall see occasion, and the major part of them so assembled shall make such orders and decrees, as well for the due regulation and government of the said staunch, according to the intent and meaning of this Act, as for the prevention of the said mischiefs and inconveniences and preservation of the said navigation, and rivers and waters therein, and otherwise touching the premises, and by and under such reasonable pains and penalties, as to them shall seem meet and convenient; and shall enforce the due execution of the same by all such lawful ways and means as the said Commissioners of Sewers within the said Great Level, or any other Commissioners of Sewers, by force and virtue of any powers and authorities to them given, or by any laws now in force relating to Commissioners of Sewers, can or may lawfully do; the first meeting of the said Commissioners to be at the said town of St. Ives, in the said county of Huntingdon."

The powers exercised by the Corporation of Godmanchester in regulating the sluices are not only generally admitted in this Act, but specially protected, and thus set forth: "Provided always, that this Act, or any thing herein contained, shall not extend or be construed to extend to impeach or make void any of the rights, privileges, or usages



of the said antient Corporation of Godmanchester, in the said county of Huntingdon, or the inhabitants thereof, heretofore used, or accustomed, for prevention of the overflowing of the meadow-grounds of or belonging to the said inhabitants, and for carrying off the waters from the same by cutting of banks, making of gulls, removing of obstructions, or otherwise making or opening a more free and easy passage for the waters.

“And it is hereby further enacted, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter as often as need shall require, the Bailiffs and Assistants of the said Corporation of Godmanchester, for the time being, or any four or more of them, by warrant under their hands directed to the keeper of the said staunch and works for the time being, shall and may require him to take up and remove the said staunch and works, so as the waters may have a more free and easy passage; which warrant, for the better notice of all persons concerned, shall be publicly set up and affixed at the staunch and works, or upon the great bridge in St. Ives, in the county of Huntingdon; of which warrant so set up and affixed, all persons concerned are to take immediate notice. And in case the said proprietor, owner, or keeper of the staunch or works for the time being, shall not within half an hour after such warrant is so set up and affixed as aforesaid, take up and remove the said staunch and works, that then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the

said Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of the said borough of Godmanchester, or any other person or persons authorized as aforesaid, to take up and remove the same as aforesaid, and so to remain and continue until the said meadows shall be out of danger of being overflowed by the said waters, doing as little damage to the said works as may be; the charge or expence thereof to be repaid and reimbursed by the proprietor or owner of the said works for the time being, to such person or persons who shall bear or pay the same, before the said staunch or works be set down again."

We have now adduced conclusive evidence of the navigation of the river Ouse in antient times, and carefully traced the progress of the present navigation, from its restoration to the last legislative enactment with respect to it. No complaints of floods or inundations are in existence previous to the erection of the mills at Houghton and Hemingford, but followed as immediate consequences of the bars thrown across the river to force the waters through those mills; hence, the Charter of Richard 2d sets forth, that " We, in consideration of the losses and injuries which our aforesaid men, in their lands, tenements, and mills, frequently sustain from inundations and floods," &c.,<sup>c</sup> and the various cabals between the men of Godmanchester and the Abbot of Ramsey, and the defensive though inefficient powers vested in the

<sup>c</sup> P. 102.

former by the indenture of 1415, and their confirmation by subsequent Acts of Parliament.

In closing our Chapter on the connection of the Corporation of Godmanchester with the navigation and drainage of this part of the country, we must observe that, defective as they are, their improvement would be fraught with some difficulties from the apparently contrasted interests connected with them; and that, however great may appear the powers vested in the Corporation of Godmanchester, of running the waters in times of floods, they are and must remain comparatively of little service to the public, and the exercise of them continue a source of litigation and anxiety to the Corporators,<sup>d</sup> until an union of interests is felt to exist between the landholders, navigation commissioners, and millers, upon the stream, and some comprehensive plan formed and operated upon of rendering the navigation and drainage more perfect, by scouring the river and brooks, and having at all times at command a freer outlet for the water. This general consolidation of interests, which would be equally beneficial to all parties, can perhaps only be effected by the exercise of the authorities vested in the Commissioners appointed by the

<sup>d</sup> The millers contending on the one hand, that the gates are sometimes unnecessarily drawn, after heavy rains, to their great injury; and the landholders, on the other, urging that their meadows are flooded and their crops destroyed, by not running the waters sufficiently early.

Statutes 16th and 17th Charles 2d, and the 6th of George 1st, and an application to the Legislature for power to impose upon the meadows and lands liable to floods, and the immense revenues<sup>e</sup> of the Navigation Proprietors, under a Commission of Sewers, or otherwise, such taxes as would be equitable for the protection of the lands, and the remedying that shameful state of the river which renders the navigation peculiarly dangerous, and occasionally obstructs the passage of barges for days, and even weeks, in the summer season.

### THE NAMES OF STAUNCHES AND SLUICES

BETWEEN ST. IVES AND BEDFORD.

Tolls for Coals.

St. Ives Staunch	.....	1d.	per Chaldron. <sup>f</sup>
Hemingford Sluice	.....	3	ditto
Houghton Ditto	.....	3	ditto
Godmanchester Ditto	.....	3	ditto
Brampton Ditto	.....	3	ditto
Offord Ditto	.....	3	ditto
Belfour Staunch	.....	1	ditto
St. Neot's Sluice	.....	3	ditto
Eaton Ditto	.....	6	ditto
Tempsford Staunch	.....	1	ditto
Roxton Sluice	.....	3	ditto

<sup>e</sup> The best calculation that can be procured of the quantity of coals, corn, &c., passing through St. Ives Staunch, in the year 1830, gives this estimate:—Coals, 55,000 to 60,000 chaldrons; corn, 40,000 quarters; sundry merchandise, as deals, stone for lime, slate, silt, reed, oil cake, &c. &c. about 15,000 tons.

<sup>f</sup> The tonnage on merchandise varies in the same proportion at the different sluices and staunches, viz. from 1d. to 3d. per ton.

## Tolls for Coals.

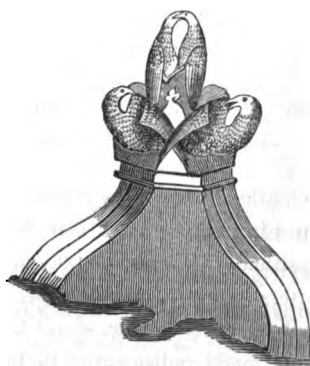
Great Barford Staunch .....	1d.	per Chaldron.
Old Mills Sluice .....	3	ditto
Willingham Ditto .....	3	ditto
Castle Staunch .....	1	ditto
Castle Sluice .....	3	ditto
Carrington Sluice .....	3	ditto
Duck Ditto .....	3	ditto
Upper Ditto .....	3	ditto

Tolls from Tempsford Little Staunch to Biggleswade,  
1s. 6d. per Chaldron.

Bedford to Biggleswade	Sandy Staunch
Tempsford Little Staunch	Ditto Sluice
Ditto Sluice	Becon Staunch
Blunham Ditto	Widow Ray Sluice
South Mill Ditto	Horscroft Ditto

Tolls from Biggleswade to Shefford, 2s. 6d. per Chaldron.

Biggleswade Sluice to Shefford	Clifton Sluice
Holme Sluice	Shefford Ditto
Stanford Ditto	



## CHAPTER IX.

## ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.



**D G A R**, the royal patron of Ramsey Abbey, soon after its foundation, presented the church of Godmanchester to that religious house, and the confirmation of his grant, as preserved by the monks of Ramsey, to the suppression of monastic institutions in the reign of Henry 8th, is the most antient notice of a church in Godmanchester. That a church or oratory was sustained in Godmanchester by the Anglo-Saxons, and continued during its Danish occupation, we may readily admit, Christianity having been the prevailing religion in the former period, and the East-Anglian Danes, under Guthrum or Athelstan, not only having submitted to baptism but practised Christian rites, as is evinced by the coins<sup>a</sup> of

<sup>a</sup> The tail-piece to this Chapter is a faithful delineation of a coin of Guthrum, in the curious and valuable collection of Joseph

that monarch bearing the cross. The Abbey of Ramsey was founded A. D. 969,<sup>b</sup> by Earl Ailwine, in conjunction with Oswald, Archbishop of York ; and the endowment of Edgar was effected through the instrumentality of Oswald, who was subsequently its Prior, and ultimately Abbot. The register<sup>c</sup> of

Barratt, Esq., of Bath. On the obverse, in Saxon characters, is the inscription Aethilstan—on the reverse is Mon. Monet or Mon his Monneyer. “His coins, of which several varieties have been preserved, must have been struck subsequently to his conversion, as they all bear his Anglo-Saxon name, and are marked with the symbol of Christianity. They resemble in type those of his predecessor, excepting that the letters AN are never added to his title. The first of these letters, however, is frequently found within the inner circle of the obverse.”—*Ruding's Ann. of the Coinage of Britain*, vol. i. p. 241.

<sup>b</sup> “Anno domini DCCCCLXIX sanctus Oswaldus et Dux Ailwinus Ramesiam construxerunt.”—*Ex Registro*, fol. 217.

<sup>c</sup> “Incliti regis Edgari donaria, quibus ecclesiam Ramesiensem insignivit. Quum igitur prima hujus basilicæ jacerentur fundamenta, illustris Rex Ædgarus, prece et instantia Archiepiscopi Oswaldi provocatus, in necessarios incepti ædificii sumptus quinque hidas apud Burwell liberalitate regali scripto suo eidem Ecclesiæ perpetuò possidendas confirmavit. Itemque idem Rex, ad petitionem ejusdem sancti pontificis, in devotionis suæ memoriale æternum, dedit ecclesiæ Ramesiensi et fratribus ibidem Deo servientibus et per successiva tempora servituris, ecclesiam de Guthmuncester, cum tribus hidis terræ et regalis munificentiae donum scripto quod hodiè apud nos habetur, confirmavit. Qualiter autem hæc ecclesia cum memorata ruris portione à nobis alienata sit, in sequentibus nosse cupienti curabimus indicare. Perpendens præterea jam dictus Rex Christianissimus sæpe memoratam Ramesiensem ecclesiam in divina religione succrescere, et gregem ibidem Deo famulantium tam merito quam numero

Ramsey recites, that King Edgar, at the instance of Archbishop Oswald, made a perpetual grant to the monastery of five hides of land at Burwell, and that at the petition of the said Holy Pontiff, and as a perpetual memorial of his piety, he farther gave to the church of Ramsey, and the brethren there consecrated to God and his service, and their successors for ever, the church of Guthmuncester, with three hides of land; but that, notwithstanding the deed of gift and confirmation was preserved amongst the records of the monastery, the church and land were not in charge. That, moreover, the said most Christian King, ever having in regard the prosperity of the church of Ramsey, and the brethren of the said church, and the increase of true religion amongst them, as a farther instance of his piety, and to promote the peace and tranquillity of his reign, also granted them a hide of land in Stukely, formerly belonging to one Tuke, and two bells valued at twenty pounds. This grant of Godmanchester church, which was amongst the earliest endowments of Ramsey Abbey, as Edgar died on the 8th of July, 975,<sup>d</sup> proved of no avail to the

adaugeri, ad devotionis suæ cumulum, pro pace et firmitate regni sui, dedit eis etiam unam hidam terræ, quæ fuerat cujusdam viri Tukem nomine, in Stivecle et duas campanas viginti librarum pretio comparatas."—*Ex Regist. de Rams. in Scac.*—*Dugdale's Mon. Ang.*

<sup>d</sup> "Edgarus Rex Angliæ obiit viij idus Julii, qui dedit quinque hidas terræ in Burewelle et ecclesiam de Gomicestre cum tribus hidis."—*Ex. Reg. f. 41.*



monks, for in their "Annuī redditus terrarum," Burwell is valued at £20 and Stukely at £7 per annum, and no notice occurs of any income derivable from Godmanchester.

In Domesday-book, the church and priest<sup>e</sup> of Godmanchester are mentioned; but no information as to the value of the church, presentation to the vicarage, or other matters relative thereto, is furnished by that compilation; nor until the reign of Stephen do we find any authentic appropriation of its revenues, when that monarch bestowed them on the newly-erected Priory of Merton,<sup>f</sup> in Surrey. Some Canons regular of the order of St. Austin, settled at Merton A. D. 1117, under the patronage and at the maintenance of Gilbert Norman, Sheriff of Surrey,<sup>g</sup> at whose petition Henry 1st granted a charter for the foundation of the Priory of Merton,

<sup>e</sup> Vide page 62.

<sup>f</sup> "Appropriations of tythes of parishes to ecclesiastical bodies was stopt by a decree of the Lateran Council, held A<sup>o</sup> 1180, 'Ecclesias et Decimas de Manu Laicorum, sine consensu Episcoporum Religiosos recipere prohibemus.' *Chauncey's History of Hartfordshire*, p. 31, where there is also the History and Laws of Vicarages."—*Cole's MSS. Brit. Mus.* vol. xxiii.

Selden contends that tithes were not introduced into England until towards the end of the 8th century, viz. A. D. 786, when parishes and ecclesiastical benefices were settled. About the year 794, Offa, the Mercian King, and the most potent of all the Saxon princes of his time in this island, made a law, whereby he gave unto the church the tithes of all his kingdom.—*Watson*.

<sup>g</sup> Dugdale describes him, "Vicecomes Surregiæ Cantabrigiæ et Huntingdoniæ tempore Gulielmorum aut Henrici primi."

which he subsequently endowed with the town of Merton. In the succeeding reign, King Stephen<sup>b</sup> gave to the Priory the church<sup>i</sup> of Gumecestr', as appears by the Merton registry; and the institution continued to flourish, increasing in wealth and importance until its suppression, when its revenues were stated £1039 15s. 3d. Speed, and £957 19s. 5½d. Dugdale,<sup>j</sup> now upwards of £20,000 per ann. The Priory was in the diocese of Wynton (Winchester,) and dedicated to St. Mary; it stood on the Wandle, occupying, with its gardens and appurtenances, sixty acres of ground, in a fruitful valley on the western bank of the river Vandal, which abounds with fine trout. Henry 3d held a Parliament at Merton in 1236, when the statutes, called the Statutes of Merton, were enacted, and when also the increasing powers and grasping ambition of the church received a check from the Barons: the prelates having proposed to supersede the common by the introduction of the imperial and canon laws, were answered—"We will not alter the laws of England." The Prior of Merton

<sup>b</sup> Stephen reigned from Dec. 2, 1135, to Oct. 25th, 1154; the date of the grant being lost, we must refer it to the intervening period.

<sup>i</sup> "Stephanus Rex dedit Ecclesiam de Gumecestr."—*Ex Registro de Merton in Col. Lelandi*, vol. 1st, p. 71.

<sup>j</sup> The apparent discrepancy in the value of religious houses at the Reformation, as stated by Speed and Dugdale, arises from the former giving the gross revenue; but as there were always eleemosynary charges upon those establishments, Dugdale, after deducting these, gives the revenue available to the establishment.

sat in parliament as a mitred Abbot. The Priory was suppressed in the 26th of Henry 8th, and the site granted 5th and 6th of William and Mary, towards the endowment of a monastery erected by the latter at Shene. The only relic of the Priory now standing is a dilapidated window of the chapel, built in the style of the 15th century, and the greater part of the site is occupied by three manufactories for printing calicos, and a copper mill.

By an Inquisition in the archives of Lincoln (no date), taken in the time of Hugo Wealls, formerly Bishop of Lincoln, who was raised to that dignity A. D. 1209, in the 11th year of King John, and who continued to hold the see until the 7th of February, 1234,<sup>k</sup> headed “Gumecester,” it appears that—

“Robert, the Priest, was presented by the Prior and Convent of Merton to the perpetual vicarage of the church of Godmanchester, and instituted perpetual Vicar of the said church; which said Vicar, instituted at the aforesaid presentation of the Prior and Convent of Merton, receives, as vicarial dues, all offerings called altarage,<sup>1</sup> and all tenths and profits of the said church, besides the tenth sheaf, and holds the lands and tenements of the church; and has in occupation, that is to say, land which was arable and which rendered five shillings, and a separate occupation which rendered three shil-

<sup>k</sup> An. 19, Henrie 3<sup>d</sup>.—Vide Appendix, No. 9.

<sup>1</sup> Altarage—the tithes of wool, lambs, calves, pigs, and other small tithes, with the offerings.

lings, and four acres of meadow in Brampton Meadow,<sup>m</sup> &c.

“And the said Vicar is required to discharge the ordinary duties of and himself administer in the said church, and he shall provide that divine service is properly and sufficiently discharged in the same.”

In the Quo Warranto Plea,<sup>n</sup> A.D. 1276, allusion is made to the house of the Prior of Merton, and in the seisin of John Chaderlee,<sup>o</sup> in 1367, the park of the Prior is spoken of; nevertheless it is evident, that the residence of the Prior at Godmanchester was incompatible with the discharge of his pastoral duties at Merton, and that consequently such house, &c. was occupied by the Vicar or other officiating Minister in his name.

To an Inquisition taken in the 7th of Edward 1st,<sup>p</sup> it was answered—

<sup>m</sup> It was not unusual, in Catholic times, for churches to be endowed with lands in contiguous parishes from pious donations, but which endowments were confiscated at the Reformation.

“Henry William, of Gumecester, gave to the Vicars of Herford, near Huntingdon, for ever, and they are fully seized in the same, one rood of meadow on this condition: that the Vicar of Herford and his successors shall annually for ever during Lent, celebrate twelve masses for the souls of the said Henry and Alice his wife, and on their paying annually a penny-halfpenny toward the rent of the Bailiffs of Gumecester. . The said rood of land lies in the east meadow of the aforesaid town, called Reed Meadow, adjoining a rood of Margaret Dyewalls on the east, and the dam of the mill at Herford.”—*Ex Record de Curia de Herford.*

<sup>n</sup> Vide p. 119.

<sup>o</sup> Vide p. 84.

<sup>p</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 2—*d* and *e*.

“ That the Prior of Merton holds the church of Gomecestr’ from the gift of the predecessors of the Lord Edward, now King of England, but from whose gift and from what time is unknown.

“ Also that the said Prior holds forty-eight acres of land in Gomecestr’, a gift to the aforesaid church.

“ Also that the said Prior holds fifteen acres of meadow, in severalty, for the tenth of the hay of the whole town.

“ The Austin Canons hold of the Prior of Merton two messuages and a croft in fee of the church, and pay for the same eight shillings per year.

“ William Bulgun holds a messuage of the said Prior, and pays per year two shillings.

“ William Mareschal holds a messuage of the said Prior, and pays three shillings per year.

“ Symon Porcarus holds a messuage of the said Prior, and pays, per year, eight-pence.

“ William Molend holds a messuage of the said Prior, and pays eighteen-pence.

“ William de Manele holds a messuage of the said Prior, and pays, per year, two shillings.

“ John Mareschal holds a messuage, and pays to the said Prior twelve-pence.

“ William Hon holds a messuage and a croft, paying to the Prior of Merton five shillings.

“ Henry Parker holds a messuage, and pays to the Prior of Merton four shillings and eight-pence.

“ Roger of Matishall holds a messuage, and pays to the Prior of Merton two shillings.

“ Also the Prior of Merton receives for the tenth of the mills twenty-six shillings and eight-pence.

“ The Prior of Merton holds sixty-six acres and a half of land, and eight acres and a half of meadow, and two messuages, for which he pays to the Lord Edmund to-

wards the fee-farm of the town, five pounds, for every acre eight-pence."

In the year 1288, Pope Nicholas the 4th granted the tenths<sup>a</sup> of all ecclesiastical benefices to King Edward 1st for six years, towards defraying the expences of an expedition to the Holy Land; and that they might be collected to their full value, a taxation by the King's precept took place. The province of Canterbury was finished in 1291, and that of York in the following year, the whole being under the direction of John de Pontifera, or Pontois, Bishop of Winchester, and Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln.<sup>r</sup> A copy of this taxation was

<sup>a</sup> "The tenths, the Pope (after the example of the High Priest among the Jews, who had of the Levites a tenth part of the tithes) claimed as due to himself by divine right. And this portion or tribute was by ordinance yielded to the Pope in the 20th of Edward 1st, and a valuation then made of the ecclesiastical livings within this realm, to the end the Pope might know and be answered of that yearly revenue; so that the ecclesiastical livings chargeable with the tenth (which was called spiritual) to the Pope, were not chargeable with the temporal tenths or fifteenths granted to the King by Parliament, lest they should be doubly charged; but their possessions acquired after that taxation, were liable to the temporal tenths or fifteenths, because they were not charged to the other. The Popes often granted the same for certain terms to divers of the Kings of England, as by our Historians doth appear."—*2d Inst.* 627, 628.

<sup>r</sup> This taxation is a most important record, because all the taxes, both to our Kings and Popes, were regulated by it, until the survey made in the 26th of Henry 8th, entitled, "*Valor Ecclesiasticus*." The Statutes of Colleges which were founded before the Reformation, are interpreted by this "*Taxatio Eccle-*

published by the Commissioners in one vol. fol. in 1802, which enables us to record the then estimated value of the rectory and vicarage, and other appendages to the church.

TAXATIO ECCLESIASTICA ANGLIÆ ET WALLIÆ AUCTORITATE  
P. NICHOLAI IV. CIRCA A.D. 1291.

Archidiaconatus Huntyngdon

Decanatus de S<sup>co</sup> Neoto.

	Line'	Sp'
Ecc <sup>lia</sup> de Gurmecestr' .....	40	0 0
Vicar' ejusdem .....	8	0 0

Decanatus s<sup>ci</sup> Neoti.

	Line'	Temp.
Prior de M'tone h't in Goremecestr' in t <sup>ris</sup> redd' et curtil' .....	1	10 0
Idem h't ibidem in fruct' greg' et aial. .	1	12 0

This taxation of Pope Nicholas comprehended not only the rectorial and vicarial dues, but the yearly value of a donation of forty-six acres of arable land and thirty-four acres of meadow, and the rental of certain houses included in the same gift, as appears by the following extract from the "N<sup>o</sup>narum Inquisitiones in Curia Scaccarii, Temp. Regis Edward 3<sup>i</sup>." These Inquisitions were taken upon the oath of Commissioners, pursuant to a commission dated the 26th of January, 1341, wherein assessors and venditors were empowered to levy,

siastica;" according to which their benefices, under a certain value, are exempted from the restriction in the statute, 21st Henry 8th, concerning Pluralities.—*Nicolas*.

for the King's use, the ninth of corn, wool, and lambs, according to the value at which churches were taxed, as stated in Pope Nicholas's Valor, if the value of the ninth amounted to as much as the tax, and to levy more if the true value of the ninth exceeded the tax; but if the value of the ninth was less than the tax, they were directed only to levy the true value of the ninth. The origin of the records called *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, the authority by which they were taken, and the manner of taking them, appear in the Statutes of the 14th and 15th of Edward 3d, in the commissions themselves, and other records in the Exchequer. "At the Parliament<sup>a</sup> held at Westminster the Wednesday next after Mid-lent, 14th Edward 3d, March 29th, 1340, a grant was made to the King of the ninth lamb, the ninth fleece, and the ninth sheaf, to be taken by two years, then next to come; and of cities and boroughs the very ninth part of all their goods and chattels; and of merchant's foreign which dwell not in cities nor boroughs, and also of the people that dwell in forests, &c. one fifteenth. Venditors and assessors where thereon appointed for every county in England, to assess and sell the ninth and fifteenth; and three commissions were issued, directed to assessors and venditors appointed under the Great Seal by the King and his Council."

<sup>a</sup> Vide their History, published by the Commissioners.



**NONARUM INQUISICIONES  
COM' HUNT.'**

Nona garbar' vell' et agnor' d'no regi concessa in Com' Hunt' tam vendita q'm co'missa p' Willm' le Moigne et Hugone' de Croft et soc' suos assessores venditor's et collector's ejusdem none in com' p'dco', &c. &c. anno regni d'ni Regis Edwardi Anglie nu'c quarto-decimo regni vero sui Franc' primo iux diversas co'missiones eisdem Assessor' directas.

Nona garb' &c. co'missa p' inquisic'ones f'cas de vero valore ejusdm' none iux tenorem t'cie comissionis.

Decanatus de S'to Neoto. Gurmecestr' Tax' xlvij<sup>li</sup>.

Idm r' de xxiiij<sup>li</sup> de nona garbaꝝ vellez et agnoz ejusdm' pochie comissa Thome Hopay Johi Baroun, Galfro Manypeny Henr' Colewat et al' hoibz ejusdm' vill' cuj<sup>q</sup> eccfia cum vicaria ejusd' taxat' ad xlvij<sup>li</sup>. Et sic eadm' nona non attingit ad tax' p xxiv<sup>li</sup> nec attingẽ potest eo qđ magna pars

**INQUISITIONS OF NINTHS.  
COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON.**

The ninth sheaf, fleece, and lamb, granted to our Lord the King, in the county of Huntingdon, as sold and collected by William le Moigne and Hugo de Croft, and their associates, &c. &c. assessors and venditors of the said ninth in the said county, in the 14th year of the Lord Edward, King of England, &c.

The ninth sheaf, &c. taken by inquisition made of the true value of the 9th under the third commission.

Deanery of Saint Neots, Gurmecestr', taxed at £48.

They return £24 for the 9th sheaf, fleece, and lamb, of the said parish, by the inquest of Thomas Hopay, John Baroun, Galfred Manypeny, Henry Colewat, and others, men of the said town; the church and vicarage of which is taxed at £48. And yet the said 9th does not amount to the tax

taxaçois ejūdm emergit de dote ecclie scil de xlvj acr' t're arabil xxxiiij acr' p'ti et de quatuor decim' de reddit' ass' 'emergit eciam de oblatōibz obventōibz mortuar' lactag' curtilag' et aliis cōmoditatibz in dcam taxam concurrentibz que dos et cōmodit p'dict' valerūt eodm anno xxiiij<sup>11</sup> sicut comptm̃ est p sacrum Thome Hopay, Joñis Baroun, Galfri Manipeny, Henr' Colewat, Joñis Glewe, Wiñi Alred, Wiñi le Rede, Galfri atte Russhes, Joñis Milcent, Rici le Rede, Wiñi Gile, et Henr' Manipeny, cor' pfat' assessor' jur'.

by £24, nor can it be made to do so, for that the greater part of the said tax arises from a gift to the church of 46 acres of arable land, 34 acres of meadow, and fourteen pounds of annual rents; and also from oblations, offerings, mortuaries, milk, and gardenage, all of which are valued in the said tax, and which gift and other commodities may be rated at £24 a year, as is computed on oath by Thos. Hopay, John Baroun, Galfred Manipeny, Henry Colewat, John Glewe, William Alred, William le Rede, Galfred atte Russhes, John Milcent, Richard le Rede, Wm. Gile, and Henry Manipeny, sworn before the said assessors.

No circumstance of importance, regarding the church or its revenues, occurs from this period until the formation of the "Valor Ecclesiasticus," A. D. 1534. In the 26th of Henry 8th, an Act of Parliament was passed, directing a new ecclesiastical survey to be made, in order to ascertain the yearly values of all the possessions, manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments, &c. appertaining to any monastery, priory, church, parsonage, vicarage,

free chapel, &c. within this realm, Wales, Calais, Berwick, and the Marches. The report made in pursuance of this Act was returned into his Majesty's Court of First Fruits and Tenth, where it is still preserved. First-fruits and tenths were originally part of the Papal usurpations over the clergy of these kingdoms,<sup>†</sup> first introduced by Pandulph<sup>ⁿ</sup>, the Pope's Legate, during the reigns of John and Henry 3d, in the see of Norwich, and afterwards attempted to be made universal<sup>ⁿ</sup> by the Popes, Clement 5th and John 22d, about the beginning of the 14th century. The first-fruits, primitiæ or annates, were the first year's whole profits of the spiritual preferments, according to a rate or valor made under the direction of Pope Innocent 4th, by Walter, Bishop of Norwich, in 38th Henry 3d, and afterwards advanced in value by commission from Pope Nicholas 4th, A.D. 1291, 20th Edward 1st, and still farther increased by this Valor Ecclesiasticus, A. D. 1534.

Tenths consist of the tenth part of the yearly value of livings, according to the tax or valor at

<sup>†</sup> Blackstone's Com. vol. i. p. 284.

<sup>ⁿ</sup> "As to the time when this practice began, it is observed, that ever since the 12th century, some Bishops or Abbots have either by custom or particular privilege, received annates of benefices belonging to their patronage or jurisdiction."—*Collyer's Ecc. Hist.*

<sup>ⁿ</sup> The reason alleged by the Canonists for the exaction of first-fruits by the Pope was "pro conservando decenti statu suo, ut qui omnium curam habend de communi alatur."—*God. Rep. Can.* 337.

which they have been assessed at different periods. On renouncing the papal dominion, first-fruits and tenths were annexed to the Crown by Act of Parliament in the 26th of Henry 8th, from which they were separated by the 1st and 2d of Philip and Mary, and appropriated to the erection of new monasteries on the revival of the Romish religion. By the 1st of Elizabeth, cap. 4, they were re-annexed to the Crown, and so continued till the reign of Queen Anne. First-fruits and tenths were not, strictly speaking, at the Reformation converted into a portion of the actual revenues of the Crown, as Henry's collectors, for the most part, procured impropriations of them to themselves, in the same way that religious houses, on their suppression, their sites and lands were obtained from the Crown at nominal purchases, or through grants for terms of years or lives.

On Monday, 7th of February, A.D. 1704, Queen Anne sent the following message to the House of Commons, which was delivered in writing by Mr. Secretary Hodges :

“ ANNE R.

“ Her Majesty having taken into her serious consideration, the mean and insufficient maintenance belonging to the Clergy in divers parts of this kingdom, to give them some ease, hath been pleased to remit the arrears of the tenths of the poor Clergy ; and, for augmentation of their maintenance, her Majesty is pleased to declare that she will make a grant of her whole revenue

arising out of first-fruits and tenths, as far as it now is or shall become free from incumbrances, to be applied to this purpose ; and if the House of Commons can find any proper method by which her Majesty's good intentions to the poor Clergy may be made more effectual, it will be a great advantage to the public, and very acceptable to her Majesty."

This message was followed by an immediate and unanimous resolution of the House, that an humble address should be presented to her Majesty, thanking her for her pious concern for the poor Clergy in remitting this branch of her revenue to the augmentation of their maintenance; and an Act of Parliament was passed in the 2d and 3d Sessions of her reign, chap. 11, intituled, " An Act for making more effectual her Majesty's gracious intentions for the augmentation of the maintenance of the poor Clergy, by enabling her Majesty to grant, in perpetuity, the revenues of the first-fruits and tenths ; and also for enabling any other persons to make grants for the same purpose." To bring this Act into immediate operation, letters-patent were granted on the 3rd of November, 1704, in which distinguished persons therein named, filling the highest offices in church and state, and their successors in those offices, were formed into a Corporate Body, by the name of the " Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne for the augmentation of the maintenance of poor Clergy," with a common seal, to have perpetual succession, for the

future equitable appropriation of the funds<sup>w</sup> thus arising.

The 43d Geo. 3, cap. vii., is confirmatory of the Act passed in the 2d and 3d of Queen Anne, enabling lay-men to leave lands, tenements, and hereditaments in fee, by will or donation, to the Governor's of Queen Anne's Bounty, which statute of Anne had been somewhat frustrated in its purposes by the "Act to restrain the disposition of lands, whereby the same became unalienable," passed in the 9th of George 2d. Other statutes have been passed enlarging the powers and farther protecting the Governors, under the sanction and authority of which the first-fruits and tenths continue to be received and applied to the augmentation of poor livings.<sup>x</sup>

By reference to that portion of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of Henry 8th, relative to Godmanchester, it appears that the appropriation of the rectory continued up to that time in the Prior of Merton, to

<sup>w</sup> Eleven parliamentary grants were made in aid of the Governors, of £100,000 each, between the years 1809 and 1820. A particular History of this Corporation, the Livings augmented, and other matters relative thereto, was published in 1826 by their Secretary, Christopher Hodgson, Esq.

<sup>x</sup> The Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty having granted six several lots of £200 each for the augmentation of the perpetual curacy of Little Ravely, in the county of Huntingdon, purchased in Godmanchester field 26 acres, 1 rood, and 19 perches of arable land, which is commonly called "Queen Anne's Bounty."

whom the churches of Alconbury<sup>r</sup> and Yelling are also assigned.

VALOR ECCLESIASTICUS, A.D. 1534.

Godma'chester Rectoria.

Valet in proficuis pvenien' de rectoria iſm ad l <sup>i</sup> per annū ultra omiōd' oſſa ut dicit' non r' hic q appriat' monas- terio de Marten ideo hic in oſne .....	}	Nil.
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PRIORATUS DE MERTON.

Com' Hunting'

Val't in Sp'ual'

Rect' de Acomburye cum decimis iſm .....	xxiiij <sup>li</sup>	}	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">£.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">s.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">d.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">lxxviiij</td> <td style="text-align: right;">—</td> <td style="text-align: right;">—</td> </tr> </table>	£.	s.	d.	lxxviiij	—	—
£.	s.			d.					
lxxviiij	—			—					
Rect' de Godmanchester .....	l <sup>li</sup>								
Et peñco ecclīe de Yellynge ....	iiij <sup>li</sup>								
In toto ut p dict' declar' inde examiat									

GODMANCHESTER.

Thomas Byllington est Vicarius iſm.

Valet in proficuis de vicaria iſm tam in decimis personal' alteragio quam obla- cion' et alijs decim' unacū exit mans et terr' gleb' s' cōibus annis .....	}	xviiij   xix   iiij
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Repris'

In denar' solut' versus feodi firm' dñi Reg <sup>s</sup> iſm	}	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">£.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">s.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">d.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">—</td> <td style="text-align: right;">xxiiij</td> <td style="text-align: right;">j ob</td> </tr> </table>	£.	s.	d.	—	xxiiij	j ob	}	j   xviiij   xjob
£.	s.	d.								
—	xxiiij	j ob								
Archno Hunt' pro pcur' et sinodal' .....	}	—   xv   x								

Et reman' ..... xvij — iiijob

Xma inde ..... j   xiiij — ob

y "Temp. Edw. 5.—Item. Advoc' Ecclesiæ de Alkmundbury solebat esse in man'. predecess' R. et dat' fuit Prior' et Conventu in Merton in p'prios usus.—*Colé's Escheats, Plut.* ccx. F. p. 175, *Brit. Mus.*

By this survey the value of the rectory is raised from £40, as rated in Pope Nicholas's taxation, to £50 per annum, and the vicarage from £8 to £18 19s. 4d. gross revenue; and after deducting the fee-farm rent for the glebe, and procuration fees at visitations, a clear annual income is left of £17 0s. 4½d., without including the Chauntry and Guilds. On the suppression of the Priory of Merton by Henry 8th, he gave the rectory of Godmanchester to the Collegiate Church of Westminster, to the Dean and Chapter of which the presentation to the vicarage was also transferred. They were for a short time disturbed in the enjoyment of this property, by the Sequestrators employed under the Commonwealth's men, who, finding the vicarage vacant in 1651, presented thereto the Rev. John Badcock; but, on the restoration of Charles 2d, though Mr. Badcock was not removed, the rectory and vicarage were confirmed to the church of Westminster. The following was the antient custom of tithing with the Parson and Vicar, but which was superseded by rectorial and vicarial allotments of land, at the inclosure of the parish; the former held by lessees of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster,\* on certain lives, and the latter being occupied by tenancy under the Vicar for the time being.

\* Tithes, as well as allotments in lieu of tithes, are frequently let on leases for lives, and have been so from a very early period. By a Saxon Charter, tithes were granted "terram quatuor manentium pro diebus trium hominum," for three lives, as used at this day.—*Hearn's Discourses*, vol. i. p. 9.



ANTIEN T CUSTOMS OF TITHING WITH THE PARSON AND  
VICAR IN GODMANCHESTER, (A.D. 1590.)

“ 1st. The town is to pay to the Parsonage yearly, at Easter, for the tithe of their water-mills, wind-mill, and their fulling-mills, £1 6s. 8d. N. B. The Farmer is to discharge the rent by his lease. (Mr. Anger’s opinion is, that no custom can prescribe against a composition being evident.)

“ 2d. The tithe-corn and all other grain ought to be paid yearly, according to the old usage and custom, viz. Every owner, or his deputy, shall set forth his tenth sheaf of his wheat, rye, barley, oats, beans, peas, fetches, or tares : or the tenth hove or shock of wheat, rye, or all other grain thrown out of their crops. And that no man shall make within this liberty above 10 hoves or shocks of a land, except great and long headlands, and such like, which will make 20, 30, 40, of a land.

“ 3d. The town is to pay the Vicar of the church yearly, at Easter, for the tithes of their water, as it hath been accustomed, 4s., the which money is discharged yearly by the farmers of the waters.

“ 4th. That every householder within this liberty shall yearly pay to the Vicar, at Easter, for their offerings, 2d., and for waxshot  $\frac{3}{4}$ d., which is now made 1d. by the inhabitants, and given to the Vicar to find wine for the communion at Easter. (“ Dr. Swabbe saith of this custom, it is too young, and therefore against law.”)

“ 5th. All householders, farmers, and tenants, within this liberty, shall pay the money of the holy loaf in due order and form, and cross one after another as they have been accustomed to do : the which money is now appointed for the finding the communion bread and wine at Midsummer, Michaelmas, and Christmas. (This cannot be any custom now, as our Vicar doth say.)

“6th. The Vicar is to have at Easter for every hen 2 eggs, and for cocks 3 eggs; and for every duck 2, and for drakes 3; and for every goose 2, and for the gander 3; and for every turkey-hen 2, and for the cock 3. And no tithe chickens, ducklings, or goslings, or turkeys, to be demanded or required within this liberty.

“7th. All men’s sons and daughters who receive the sacrament shall pay to the Vicar, at Easter, for their offerings, every one of them 1*d*. (Mr. Barnwell, our Vicar, says, that they that have stock or crops should pay 2*d*.)

“8th. All servants and apprentices that take no wages but their finding, shall pay every one of them 1*d*.

“9th. All servants and journeymen which receive wages, both men and maids, shall pay every one of them 2*d*.

“10th. All persons that have their gardens furnished with roses, lavender, isope, rosemary, thyme, strawberries, and all other flowers and herbs, and do sell of the same, shall pay to the Vicar, at Easter, a garden penny. The Vicar hath a smoke-penny, which they call hearth-penny.

“11th. Every cow and calf sold before Candlemas-day, the sellers of them to pay, because he or they which have bought them are charged to pay to the Vicar, at Easter next, for every cow and calf so bought, 2½*d*.; and for every gise-cow sold before Candlemas-day, the Vicar is to have of the purchaser 1*d*.

“12th. Every cow and calf sold after Candlemas-day, he or they that sold them stand charged, as it hath been accustomed, to pay to the Vicar, at Easter next, for every cow and calf so sold, 2½*d*.; and for every gess-cow sold after Candlemas-day, the Vicar to have of him that sold the gess-cow, 1*d*.

“13th. If any cow being with calf shall be sold after Candlemas-day, which cow shall have a calf before Easter-

day, then the seller shall pay to the Vicar, at Easter next, if the calf shall live,  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ ; but if the calf do die,  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  by custom.

“14th. Every heifer that hath a calf, and every cow that hath a calf, that hath not been bought and sold as above-said, then the owners shall pay to the Vicar, at Easter,  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ , and no tithe-calf or tithe-milk to be demanded or required.

“15th. For sheep dead before Candlemas-day, there is nothing paid for the pelts of them; but for those pelts dead after Candlemas, for each of them at Easter  $\frac{1}{2}$  penny.

“16th. If there be any person or persons within this liberty that doth sell any ewes with lamb, or any other gest-ware, before Candlemas-day, the sellers are discharged of tithe by old custom, but the buyers of them are to pay to the Vicar at St. Helen's-day tithe lamb, and also at Shear-day tithe wool.

“17th. Ewes and lambs, or ewes with lamb, sold after Candlemas-day and before St. Helen's, the sellers of the same shall pay to the Vicar, at St. Helen's-day,  $\frac{1}{2}$  penny the ewe and a halfpenny the lamb, as it hath been accustomed; and also the buyers shall pay for the residue of the lambs that were to come, halfpence.

“18th. The sellers of wethers, wether shear hogs, or any other gest-ware, after Candlemas-day and before Easter, shall pay to the Vicar at Shear-day, halfpence.

“19th. Owners of sheep and lambs not bought or sold after Candlemas-day shall pay to the Vicar at St. Helen's-day tithe-lamb, and at Shear-day tithe-wool; and for the lambs, when the owner hath taken three of the best, the Vicar is to take one, and so to go through the whole number.

“20th. The Vicar to have a tithe-lamb at nine, when the owner of the lambs has taken three, then the Vicar is to

take one where he will of the six, and to pay to the owner halfpenny.

“21st. The Vicar is to have a tithe-lamb at eight, when the party that owneth the lambs hath taken two ; then the Vicar is to have one out of the six, and pay to the owner of the lambs 1*d*.

“22d. The Vicar to have a tithe-lamb at seven, when the owner hath taken two of the seven where he will; then the Vicar is to take one of the five which is left where he will, and to pay to the owner 3½*d*.

“23d. Persons having five or six lambs eynded, or less in number, having no more in all, the Vicar to have ½ penny for the ewe and 2½*d*. for the lamb, and no tithe-wool.

“24th. Also it hath been of old time used, that neither tithe-fish, tithe-wood, or tithe willows, shall be at any time paid ; nor yet tithe-calf, tithe-milk, or any tithe-hay, neither tithe-goslings, ducklings, chickens, nor turkeys within this liberty.

“25th. Persons having two or three sows, and either of them hath seven pigs living to be a fortnight old, shall pay the Vicar three tithe-pigs of the said three sows, and the Vicar to pay the owner farthings, as it hath been accustomed ; for the owner is to take two at seven, and two at eight, and three at nine, and three at ten, according to custom.

“26th. Persons having two or three sows, and either of them having six pigs living at a fortnight old, shall pay the Vicar one farthing for each, as it hath been of old time, and no tithe-pig to be demanded.

“27th. All dove-houses shall pay the tenth of their young pigeons at all times as they do draw them, or otherwise to agree with the Vicar for money.

“28th. The Vicar to have also the tenth of fruit, viz. of quinces, wardens, pears, apples, wildings, crabs, and wal-

nuts, at all such times as they are pulled; and every owner shall send his tithe home to the Vicar, either by charfulls, or bushelsfull, or else by basketsfull, according to custom.

“29th. Hemp or flax grown within this liberty shall pay to the Vicar, yearly, the tenth bent or bundle, when it is watered according to antient custom.

“30th. All persons keeping bees shall pay to the Vicar, at the time of drawing, one-tenth of the honey and also the tenth of the wax, as it hath been accustomed.”

Allotments of Land in lieu of Tithes, made by Commissioners appointed under an Act of Parliament, passed 43d Geo. 3d., for dividing and inclosing the Parish of Godmanchester, in their Award dated Sept. 25th, 1803.

	A.	R.	P.	
To the Dean and Chapter of Saint Peter's Collegiate Church, Westminster, as Rectors impropriate for Tithes.	East Field .....	153	3	10
	Hudpool and Leys ..	33	3	14
	West Meadow .....	3	3	38
	East Garden Field ..	17	0	33
	Forest and Depden ..	460	0	24
			A.	R. P.
			668	3 39

To the same for Glebe.	Parks .....	30	1	6
	Forestfield & Depden	104	0	32
	Reed Meadow .....	16	0	25
	West Meadow .....	4	3	35
			155	2 18
			824	2 17

To the Vicar for Tithes.	East Field .....	25	1	23
	West Field and Leys	79	1	33
	Forest Field .....	67	1	14
			172	0 30

To the same for Glebe.	In the Rushes .....	4	3	29
	Forest Field .....	17	1	0
			22	0 29
			194	1 19

## THE CHAUNTRY AND GUILDS.

The earliest mention of the term Guild, Milner<sup>a</sup> refers to the reign of Ethelwolph, observing, that in the year 856 the trade and commerce of Winchester “flourishing exceedingly, our principal citizens formed themselves under the royal protection into a society, called a Guild, being the first association of this nature by the space of a whole century recorded in history.” Guilds or social confederations existed amongst the Anglo-Saxons,<sup>b</sup> and appear to have been much upon the principle of modern Benefit Societies, every member or family contributing yearly at Easter 1*d.*, and on the death of any of the brethren, 1*d.* for the soul’s scot, thereby forming a fund to meet the exigencies of the Guild, as legal exactions, burial of its members, &c. In mercantile towns and sea-ports there were Guilds, or fraternities of men, for the purpose of commerce, and the Gi-halla, or Guild-hall of the Burghers of Dover, is mentioned in Domesday-book. Thus Guilds originally were associations of men for particular objects, as mutual protection or commerce; and when religious fraternities were formed, the term Guild was adopted by them. The word chauntry implying a brotherhood for the singing and celebration of masses,—the words Chauntry and Guild have frequently been used as synonymous terms. The origin of religious

<sup>a</sup> History of Winchester.<sup>b</sup> Watson’s Hist. of Wisbech.

Guilds, and the endowment of Chauntrys, was in the pious dispositions of our Catholic forefathers, who seldom bequeathed property without appropriating a portion of it for the good of their souls, or, in other words, for the maintenance of anniversaries, obits, luminaries, &c.

Anniversaries were the annual celebration of mass on the day of the death of the founder; obits were masses at the funeral solemnity; and luminaries were lights occasionally placed before images and on shrines; and, according to bequests of this nature, the number of those that were kept continually burning, as well as the size of that on the high altar, was regulated.<sup>c</sup> The multiplication of religious houses throughout the kingdom, and the influence of the priesthood over the laity, by the commencement of the 13th century, accumulated the wealth and lands of the church so enormously, that it threatened in its rent-roll ultimately to engross the whole empire, as whatever lands it became seized of were thenceforth inalienable. The wholesome stimulus to honourable exertion, which the probable attainment of property holds out to the enterprising and meritorious, was thus in some

<sup>c</sup> Bately mentions a curious assize for regulating tapers, antiently used at Canterbury. "The Pascal-taper, representing Christ, the chief of the church, the pillar of light, &c., was to contain 300 pounds of wax: the taper at the feasts, ten pounds; the processional ones, three pounds; that on the altar, one pound; and those used daily in processions and masses, two pounds each."

measure withdrawn, and the dangerous experiment threatened of reducing the people to the temporal power of the clergy, and erecting them into an ecclesiastical phalanx more potent than royalty itself. Amongst other inconveniences which might be enumerated, from the appropriation of lands to monastic purposes, in the then civil state of the country, we may observe, that services due from those estates for the defence of the realm were withdrawn, thereby increasing the burdens of the laity, religious houses being exonerated from those services; the lords also were defrauded of their rights to escheats, reliefs, reversions, and wardships, on which account, in many antient deeds of feoffment,<sup>d</sup> clauses were entered, rendering it lawful to give or sell the lands to any persons excepting Ecclesiastics or Jews. In the 41st of Edward 3d, John Chaderlee was admitted to the freedom of Godmanchester with this express stipulation,<sup>e</sup> “and the aforesaid John shall neither sell or alienate any lands or tenements that he may acquire to strangers or ecclesiastics,<sup>f</sup> to the injury and prejudice of the

<sup>d</sup> Coke.

<sup>e</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 3, *b*.

<sup>f</sup> The possibility of lands, &c. falling into mortmain, through becoming the legal estate of ecclesiastics, was carefully guarded against down to the period of the Reformation, as illustrated by this Court entry, A.D. 1547..

“Gumecester. { Cur’ tent’ ib’m die Jovis prox’ post fest’  
Anunci’onis b’tē Marie Virginis A<sup>o</sup> Regni  
Henrici viij<sup>o</sup>—xxxviiij.

“Mem.—That John Slowe and William Herdman, Bailiffs of



liberties of the said town." Bishop Kermet, in his Glossary at the end of his "Parochial Antiquities," under the word Religiosi, has the same allusion.<sup>s</sup> In order to check this increasing power of the church, a statute was framed in the 9th of Henry 3d, to restrain the superstitious prodigality of the people, particularly in a manner which deprived the King and Lords of Manors of their respective rights, which was called the Statute of Mortmain,<sup>h</sup> which enacted, "that it shall not be lawful

the forsaid towne, w<sup>th</sup> the assent and cosent of Walter Collynd, Henry Frere, Thomas Trise, w<sup>th</sup> all other ther copany, being the twelve men, w<sup>th</sup> other srtyn men of the said towne, y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>s</sup> to saye, William Sewest, Gent<sup>n</sup>, Ric Robyns, John Vynt', Johe Bollynd, w<sup>th</sup> other srtyn men, be ther holle assent be agreid and dothe grant y<sup>t</sup> Cristofer Robie, Clarke, vicar of the sayd towne, y<sup>t</sup> he shall purchase w<sup>th</sup>in the sayd towne of Gumecest' ether tenements, meddowe, leie, or land arable, any custome to y<sup>e</sup> cotra'ry not-w<sup>t</sup>standyng, providyd allwaye y<sup>t</sup> the said Cristofer Robie shall not geve nor sell the teneme'ts, meddws, leie nor land arable so bowt by hym or by any p'son for hym not into mortemayne nor to none unfranchesid mane, under the payne of furfity of the said tenements, meddowes, leie or land so gevyne or sowlid."—*Vide Stock Book*, No. 2.

<sup>s</sup> The words used in deeds of conveyance, he observes, were "Tenend sibi et hæredibus suis vel cuicunque vendere vel assignare voluerint exceptis Religiosis et Judæis.

<sup>h</sup> Mort-main—in mortua manu. Hottoman, in his *Commentaries de Verbis Feudal*, says,—Manus-mortua, locutio est, quæ usurpatur de iis quorum possessio ut ita dicam, immortalis est, qui nunquam hæredem habere desinunt. Qua de causa, res nunquam ad priorem dominum revertitur. Skene observes, that "dimittere terras ad manum mortuam est idem atque dimittere ad multitudinem sive universatim, quæ nunquam moritur."

from henceforth, to any person to give his lands to any religious house, and to take the same land again to hold of the same house; nor shall it be lawful to any house of religion to take lands of any and to lease the same to him from whom it was received; if any from henceforth give his lands to any religious house, and thereupon be convict, the gift shall be utterly void, and the land shall accrue to the Lord of the Fee.<sup>1</sup> This statute was confirmed by the 2d of Henry 3d's great charters. Edward 1st, regardless of the denunciations of the Vatican, summoned a Parliament in 1279, for the purpose of enacting that "from that time none should either give, sell, bequeath, or change any lands, tenements, or rents, to any religious body without licence from the King for that purpose." Sir William Blackstone says of this statute, that "it closed the great gulph in which all the landed property of the kingdom was in danger of being swallowed up;" and that it was called the Statute of Mortmain, because it was intended to prevent estates falling into hands of no service to the King

<sup>1</sup> Forfeitures, in cases of alienation, accrued to the immediate Lord of the Fee; so the tenant who intended to alienate, first conveyed his lands to the Religious House, and instantly took them back to hold of the Monastery, which instantaneous seisin was not held to occasion forfeiture. Then, by pretext of some other forfeiture, alienation, or escheat, the bretheren entered into the lands, &c. by right of their newly-acquired seignior, as immediate Lords of the Fee.

or public without hope of ever changing owners, and which were consequently considered dead hands. Sir William Temple, in describing the state of the clergy at the Norman Conquest, and in the reign of King John, observes, that "they had mighty possessions in lands throughout the kingdom, as well as other riches, from the bounty of pious princes, of devout and innocent people, and from many others, who thought to expiate crimes or cover ill lives by donations to the church. These possessions were esteemed sacred; and, as much went into this stock every age, and nothing ever went out, so all the lands of the kingdom might, in the course of ages, have held of the church, if this current had not been stopped by the statute of Mortmain in the time of Edward 1st. It is recorded, that of 62,000 knights' fees that were reckoned in England during the reign of the first Norman King, there were in that of King John 28,000 in the hands of the church." Notwithstanding these enactments, the clergy continued to gain accession of territories. Endowments for the foundation of religious Guilds and Chauntries, as of those in Godmanchester, were generally in land; large donations were effected by the payment of a fine, and accumulated smaller donations produced considerable revenues, when the clergy erected themselves into fraternities to regulate the temporal affairs of the Guilds and Chauntries, and carry the wills of the founders into effect. We

shall preface our notice of the Guilds and Chauntry of Godmanchester by the following extracts from antient wills in the Archdeacon's office at Huntingdon.<sup>k</sup>

THE WILL OF THOMAS ROBYN, DEC. 13TH, 1306.

GUMECESTR'.

In Dei Nomine Amen.  
Die Mercurii in festo S̄ci  
Luce Anno Dñi millmo tri-  
centesimo sexto. Ego Tho-  
mas Robyn de Gumecestr'  
in mentis sanitate et bone  
memorie condo testimen-  
tum meum in hunc modum.  
Imprimis cōmendo Animam  
meam deo omnipotenti et  
beate Marie Virgini et  
omibz S̄cis et corpus meum  
ad sepeliend in cimiterio  
eccl̄ie b̄te Marie de Gume-  
cestr'. Itm lego unū prin-  
cipale s̄cđm morem Ville  
pdict ad p̄cedendum corpus  
meū in die sepulture mei.  
Itm lego sumo altari eiusdm  
Eccl̄ie unū q̄rt ord. Itm  
lego Priori de Merton Rec-  
tor eiusdm eccl̄ie di' q̄rt

In the name of God,  
Amen. On the Wednesday  
after the feast of St. Lucia,  
in the year of our Lord  
1306, I, Thomas Robyn, of  
Godmanchester, of sound  
mind and memory, in this  
manner make my last will  
and testament. In the first  
place, I commend my soul  
to Almighty God, the bles-  
sed Virgin Mary, and all  
saints, and my body to be  
buried in the cemetry of the  
church of the Blessed Mary  
at Godmanchester. Also I  
leave my principal, accord-  
ing to the custom of the  
place, for the quiet inter-  
ment of my body on the day  
of my burial. Also I leave  
to the high altar of the said

<sup>k</sup> The Registry of the Arch-deaconry of Huntingdon, at Hun-  
tingdon, contains original wills from 1483 to the present time,  
excepting from the years 1650 to 1651, and from 1653 to 1660,  
that for 1652 being there.

ord. Itm lego fabrice ecclie p̄dict 10s. et fraternitat Gilde S̄ci Joh̄is Baptiste in ecclia p̄dict existeñ dimid̄ q̄rt ord et gilde fraternitat corp̄is Xri in ead̄m ecclia existeñ unam Rod prati iacent in hude pole que quondam fuit patris mei et unū q̄rt ord. Itm lego cuiſt lumini eiusdem ecclie vjd. Itm lego ad distribuend̄ paupibz in die sepulture mea 10s. Itm in expensis faciend̄ eod̄m die tuta corpus meū quinq; marc̄. Itm lego d̄no Willm̄o Capellano ecclie p̄dict vjd. Itm lego d̄no Laurencio Capeſto xxd. et cuiſt Capellano reliquor<sup>9</sup> in ead̄m ecclia celebranc̄m vjd. et cuiſt clico eiusd̄m ecclie 4d. Itm lego Capellano beate Marie Virgine in fronte Prioratus Canonico<sup>9</sup> de Hunt xx s. Itm Priori et Convent eiusd̄m Priorati xx s. —ut orent p̄ aia mea et om̄ benefactor<sup>9</sup> meor<sup>9</sup>. Itm do et lego rectis herebibz meis unam acram tre in Berescroft liſe et quiete imppm̄ ut remonent et teneant an-

church a quarter of barley. Also I leave to the Prior of Merton, rector of the said church, half a quarter of barley. Also I leave to the fabric of the said church 10s., and to the fraternity of the Guild of St. John the Baptist, in the said church, half a quarter of barley; and to the fraternity of the Guild of Corpus Xri in the said church, a rood of meadow lying in Hudpool, which formerly was my fathers, and a quarter of barley. Also I leave to every light in the said church 6d. Also I leave to be distributed to the poor, on the day of my burial, 10s.; also to be expended, in the taking due care of my body on the said day, five marcs. Also I leave to Syr William, chaplain of the said church, 6d. Also I leave to Syr Lawrence, the Priest, 20d., and to every Priest officiating in the said church, 6d.; and to every Deacon of the said church, 4d. Also I leave to the Chaplain of the Blessed Virgin Mary, before

nuatim diem Annisarii mei et Emme Uxoris mee imppet in miss placebo et dirige put moris est et aliis obsequis dominus.—After which follows the disposition of his property. — *Vide original Will in the Archives of the Borough.*

the Priory of the Canons of Hunt<sup>a</sup> 20s.; also to the Prior and Convent of the said Priory, 20s., that they may pray for my soul and the souls of my benefactors. Also I leave to my right and lawful heirs an acre of land in Bascroft, that they may keep and observe annually the day of my anniversary, and that of Emma my wife, for ever, by offering mass, placeto, and dirige, and other solemnities, as the custom is.

GUMECESTER. AGNES LANE, AUGUST 5TH, 1483.

Item lego fraternitati Gilde S̄cæ Tintal<sup>l</sup> d̄d acr<sup>o</sup> pti iacent in Morelande, in<sup>l</sup> pti Joh̄is Agedde et pti Joh̄is Bonefoy et una acr<sup>o</sup> pti iacent in le Redemedowe obsrvn̄d Annivsar<sup>o</sup> meū et Thome Lane Marit mei anuatim. Item lego ad sustentacōem miss de Thom̄ xxd. Item lego p flamea emenda E. Godmstria xxd.

I leave to the fraternity of the Guild of the Holy Trinity half an acre of meadow, lying in Moreland, between the meadows of John Agedde and John Bonefoy, and one acre of meadow lying in Redemeadow, for the annual celebration of my anniversary, and that of my husband, Thomas Lane.—Item, I leave for a mass for the soul of Thomas, 20d. Item, I leave for the maintenance of the light in Godmanchester Church, 20d.

GUMECESTR'. JOHES FELDE, FEBRUARY 26TH, 1485.

Itm volo qd dicta Isabella  
uſ mea sustinet die obit<sup>m</sup>  
mei et anni<sup>o</sup> sar<sup>o</sup> meſ an-  
nuatim durante vita sua of-  
ferendi in missa ld.

Also I will that my afore-  
said wife Isabella, for the  
due performance of my obit  
and anniversary, shall an-  
nually offer at mass ld. so  
long as she shall live.

GUMECESTR'. THOM FROSTE, MAY 10TH, 1491.

Itm lego fraternitati Gilde  
Corporis Xri dđ acra prati  
in Gorse-holme. Item lego  
Capellano cantarie beate  
Marie de Gumecestr' pre-  
dict una Roda terræ arrabil  
iacent in le Estfelde, &c.  
hendi sibi et succ' suis ca-  
peſt dict Cantarie.

Also I leave to the fra-  
ternity of the Guild of Cor-  
pus Christi half an acre of  
meadow lying in Gorsholme.  
Also I leave to the Chap-  
lain of the Chauntry of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, in  
Gumecestr' aforesaid, one  
acre of arable land lying  
in Eastfield, to have and  
to hold to himself and his  
successors, Chaplains to the  
said Chauntry.

GUMECESTR'. WILLIAM FRYER, MAY 15TH, 1498.

In dei Nōie Amen, xv die  
Mens Maii Anno dñm' 1498.  
Ego Wiſſm Fryer de Gu-  
mechester, Lincoln dioc  
condo testamentũ meũ in  
hoc modũ. In primis lego  
Aniã meam deo pat õipo-  
tenti Beate Marie et õibz  
Sčis Corpusq meum sepe-  
liendũ in Cemitorũ de Gu-

In the name of God,  
Amen, the 15th day of the  
month of May, in the year  
of our Lord 1498. I, Wil-  
liam Fryer, of Gumecestr'  
in the diocese of Lincoln,  
make my testament in  
this manner. In the first  
place, I leave my soul to  
Almighty God the Father,

mechester p̄dict. Itm lego principal meū ut mors est. Itm lego fabriæ Ecclie Lincoln̄ iiij*d.* Itm lego sumo altari de Gumecestr' p̄dict pro decimis oblit xij*d.* Itm lego Rectori istius Ecclie p decimis oblitis xij*d.*

the Blessed Mary and all the holy Saints; and my body to be buried in the cemetery of Godmanchester aforesaid. I leave my principal according to the custom of the town. Also I leave to the mother church at Lincoln 4*d.* Also I leave to the high altar of Godmanchester aforesaid, for tithes forgotten, 2*d.* Also I leave to the Rector of the aforesaid church, for tithes forgotten, 12*d.*

WILLIAM BURDER, 1534.

Item—I bequeathe to the highe aultre of Gumecestr for my tithis forgettune 4*d.*

We shall not multiply instances in their nature so similar, but whilst extracting from old Wills, we may, in justice to the donor and as a literary morceau, record one more specimen of about the same era :

GUMECESTER. WILLIAM DALTON, 27<sup>TH</sup> NOV. 1543.

“In y<sup>e</sup> name off ow<sup>r</sup> lorde God Amen the 27<sup>th</sup> day off novembr in the yere off ow<sup>r</sup> lorde God m̄c̄c̄c̄c̄xliij I Wyllm Dalton off Gumecestr off Lincoln dioces being in holle mynde and pffytte remembranc I make my testament in this mañ. Impriñ I gyve and bequyth my soull to all mytty god and to ow<sup>r</sup> Blessed Lady Seint Mary and to all the hole company hevyn and my body to be beryd in the cherch off the towne off Gumecestr' afforsyd in the place

S



wher the sepulcur ys accustomed to stond. Itm I gyve to the Mother Chorch of Lyncoln 8*d*. Itm I gyve my pryncipall after the custom and man<sup>r</sup> off the town. Itm I gyve to the hygh altur off the seyd towne ffor tyth fforgotten 3*s*. and 4*d*. Itm to the bell off the same chorch 20*s*. Itm to the terch 3*s*. 4*d*. Itm I wyll that evry prst beyng at my dyрге in the day off my beryall shall have 6*d*. evry pysh clarke 2*d*. evry chylde 1*d*. Itm I wyll that 100 quartern off whet be made in brede and to be dalte among poore pepell in the day off my beryall and as moch at my month day. Itm I gyve to evry one off my godchylds a ewe and a lam. Itm I gyve to Jeyne my wyffe soe long as she ys wedow my meß callyd the George and after I wyll that Thomas my sone have yt and to hys heyhers and lake of such heyhers I wyll yt shall be solde by myn executors and the mony ther off to be dysposyd ffor the helth off my soull and my ffrends soulls. Itm I gyve to Jeyn my wyffe my mes whych I latte bowght off Thomas Carnall some tyme John Lawes and 50 accurs off londe in evry ffelde lyke off the left in my name and 100 accurs off medow off the left in lyke man<sup>r</sup> and 3 accurs off layys lyyng one the Est layys. Itm I gyve to the same Jeyne my wyffe 4 coupull off shyp off the left. Itm I gyve to the same Jeyne £xx. Itm I gyve to Thomas my sone 2 mylchers and 2 hekfforths. Itm to Agnys my dawter 2 mylchers and 2 hekfforths and 10 shype a ffether bede and a matres. Itm I gyve to John my sonne my ten<sup>ant</sup> wych Thomas Cenyt dwellyth in and to hys heyhers and ffor the lake off heyhers to remygn to Thomas my sone and to his heyhers and ffor the lake off such heyhers to Augnys my dawter and to her heyhers and ffor the lake off such heyhers to be sold by my executors and dysposed ffor the helth off my soull. Itm to the same John my sone 10 shype, the residue of all my goods I bequythe to my exe-

cutors whome ordygn and make Jeyne my wyffe John Kendale and Wyllym Herwood my trusty and true executors under thys man<sup>r</sup> my debts payed and my legacies pformed I wyll that all the ressydue off my goods remygn to Jeyn my wyffe and I gyve to John Kendale and to Wyllym Herwood evry off them ffor ther labor 40s. to se thys my wyll pformed wettenes Wyllym Mynt Henry Ffrere w<sup>th</sup> others yere and day abovesyd pryved allvey that the rents and pffyts off the me<sup>s</sup> and ten<sup>ant</sup> and cattell that I have lemettyd to Thomas John and Agnis my chyltern be att the knell and gydyng off my executrs and executrix tyll such tyme as they be off ffull age of xx<sup>ii</sup> yers and discrecyon ffor my ffsending off them. And the rents to keep repr<sup>sons</sup> and the rest off the pffytts and rents to be delivd when they be abyll to occupye them as shal be thought and seen best by my executors."

THE CHAUNTRY OF THE BLESSED MARY—OR ROODES.

The origin of this Chauntry is very remote, and may be referred as far back as the reign of Edward the 1st. ; in the early part of which reign Chauntries<sup>1</sup> were first established in England. The following document is from the "Rotul. Orig. in Curia Scaccarii Abbrev."

Temp. Edw. 1.	In the reign of Edward 1st.
In Origin de Anno. R. E.	Original Rolls.
fil R. H. xxxi.	31st of King Edward, son
Extracte finium &c. in schedul'. Hunt. Ro. xij.	of King Henry. Roll xij. Hunts.
Ro <sup>gs</sup> Strateshill capellan <sup>s</sup>	Roger Strateshill, a priest,
finem fecit cum R. p decem solid' p licenc' R. fiend qd	paid a fine of ten shillings to the King, for licence to

<sup>1</sup> Grose.

dare possit unum messuagium, unum curtilagium, triginta et unam acras ĩre et quatuor acras p̃ti in Gurmundcestr' cuidam Capelano missam beate Mar' in capella be Mar' in ecclia Gurmundcestr' singlis diebz celebraturo.

present a messuage and garden, together with 31 acres of land and four acres of meadow in Gurmundcestr', to the officiating priest of the chapel of the Blessed Mary, in the church of the Blessed Mary in Gurmundcestr', for the daily celebration of mass.

This fine of ten shillings was paid in conformity with the Act passed A. D. 1279, 7th of Edward 1st, to prevent alienation of lands, &c. in mortmain, without licence from the King.<sup>m</sup> The Chantry thus founded in 1302, received in 1315 an important accession from the gift of one Henry Rude, or Rode, whose petition to the King for permission to alienate lands, &c. in mortmain to the Chantry, lead to an inquisition as to how far it would be prejudicial to the King or his assigns, when the jury returned this answer.

9<sup>o</sup> Edw. 2<sup>d</sup>.

No. 66. Henr' Rude pro  
Cantar' de Guncestre.  
Guncestre terr' iĥm—  
Hunting'.

Villa de Gunnecestre est  
et semper fuit de antiquo

9th of Edward 2d.

Henry Rude, for the Chantry of Guncestre.  
Guncestre, County of  
Huntingdon.

The town of Gunnecestre is, and always was,

<sup>m</sup> Edward 3d seized the revenues of twelve Chantries for not having licence of mortmain, and gave them to the Abbey of St. Mary Graces.

<p>dñico dñi Regis et tempore Regis Joh̃is homines dcẽ ville ceperunt de dco Rege Johe totam dcam villam in- tegram sine ullo retene- mento cum oibus libtat, &amp;c.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Inquis ad quod damnum Turr' Lond.</p>	<p>of the antient demesne of our Lord the King, and in the time of King John, the men of the said town were seized from the said King John of the whole town, without any reservation, to- gether with all liberties, &amp;c.</p>
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On which a fine of 100 shillings was levied, and the endowment sanctioned with the royal assent, and confirmed by letters-patent.

<p>In Origin' de Anno R. E. fil R. E. xº.</p> <p>Extracte grossar' finium, &amp;c. Ro. 11.</p> <p>Henr' Rude finem fecit cum R. p centum solid' p licenc' dandi laic' feod' in Gumecestr' ad manum mor- tuam cuidam capellano di- vina celebrat' in ecclia beate Marie de Gumecestre fiend, &amp;c.</p>	<p>Extract from Original Rolls.</p> <p>The Tenth of Edward 2d. Roll 11th.</p> <p>Henry Rude paid a fine of 100 shillings to the King, for licence to present in mortmain, an endowment to the officiating Chaplain of the church of the blessed Mary in Gumecestre, to have and to hold, &amp;c.</p>
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<p>Rot. Pat. in Turr' Lond.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Temp. E. 2<sup>l</sup>. An. x.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Pars 1<sup>a</sup>. Mem. 29.</p> <p>Gumecestr' p Cantar' fac in Eclie be Marie ibm.</p>	<p>Patent Rolls.</p> <p>The Tenth of Edward 2d. Part 1. Mem. 29.</p> <p>Gumecestr'. — For the Chauntry established in the church of the blessed Mary.</p>
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<p>1 mess. 30 acr<sup>o</sup> terr<sup>o</sup> et 4 acr<sup>o</sup> prati iðm p quer<sup>o</sup> de Hen. Rode.</p>	<p>One messuage, 30 acres of land, and four acres of meadow, by the gift of Henry Rode.</p>
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The Chauntry of Saint Mary or Roodes<sup>n</sup> was not only liberally endowed by the donations of Roger Strateshill and Henry Rode, but farther enriched by the gifts of others, as in the above recited Will of Thomas Frost. It was invested in the Bailiffs and Commonalty of the town, who, in 1499, appointed Sir Thomas Osse residentiary Chaplain by the following deed of indenture :

To all Christian People<sup>o</sup> to whom these presents, in writing, shall come. William Oxwell and John Laxton, Bailiffs of the town of Godmanchester, and the Commonalty of the said town, send greetings, in the Lord Eternal. —Know ye, that we the said Bailiffs and Commonalty have assigned, granted, and yielded, and by these presents indented under our hands, have confirmed to Sir<sup>p</sup> Thomas Osse, Chaplain, our Chauntry called “Seynt Marie Chauntree,” together with its appurtenances, to have and to hold the said Chauntry, with all lands, tenements,

<sup>n</sup> The Chauntry of Roodes gained the additional name of the Chauntry of St. Mary, from the circumstance of the church in which it was celebrated being dedicated to St. Mary.

<sup>o</sup> The Latin original is in good preservation in the Record Chamber of the Corporation.

<sup>p</sup> The style, Sir Thomas Osse, Chaplain, and Syr John Copgray, in the Guild of Corpus Christi, will appear peculiar; but it was usual, in Catholic times, to prefix the title of “Sir” or “Syr” to the names of certain Ecclesiastics, instead of “Reverend.”

grovages, curtilages, closes, meadows, pastures, and pasturages belonging to the said Chauntry, on the day of the signing of these presents, of whatsoever kind or nature they may be, during the life of him the said Sir Thomas Osse, without any reservation, except the reparation of the houses of the said Chauntry, and the payment of the fee-farm rent due to the said town; on this condition, that on every seventh day, that is to say, on the holy sabbath, as chief Deacon in the church of the said town, he shall read and teach the Evangelists, and that every day, in like manner as on the holy sabbath, when mass is performed, after the Offertory, he shall pray and say in English these words, “Ye shall pray for the good state, welfare, and pspite of the Bayliffs of this town, and all the Comynalte of the same, fundars of this Chauntre. And for the sollys of all the sayd Comynalte and all the good decas of the same past to the mcy of God, for their sowllis and all cristyn sowlys.” De profundis, &c. Cū ōrambꝫ sive Col-

Curates, Chaplains, Vicars, and Rectors, were styled Sir, to distinguish them from Masters of Arts, or Mag. Art.—*Vide Nicholls's Anecdotes.*

In reply to a commission held at Ely under the Act of Parliament, temp. Edw. 6<sup>l</sup>, to enquire into the constitution of the Trinity Guild at Wisbech, it was answered, with respect to the names of the priests,

Sir Nicholas Myller,  
Sir Thomas Cameron,  
Sir Robert Lynde.

*Vide Watson's Hist. of Wisbech.*

In the acknowledgment of the King's supremacy by the Prior and Brethren of St. Neott's Priory, Hunts, they all sign, Dominus or Sir.—*Vide Gorham's Hist. of St. Neotts.*—*Vide also Robyns's Will, Page 254.*

lect Inclina dñe, &c. Fidelis Deus, &c. Sub uno p dñm. And every day in like manner when mass is celebrated, he shall say, for the good estate of the Bailiffs and Commonalty, Oramus Deus qui Caritatis dona, &c. and Versus se teneb: And he shall observe and keep all and singular the anniversaries of the said Chauntry, now or hereafter set forth in the Registry and various Wills, for the due performance of which, he shall have and enjoy all and singular the donations hitherto made or hereafter granted to the said Chauntry.

In consideration of which grant, release, and confirmation, the aforesaid Sir Thomas engages himself by his sacerdotal pledge, continually to reside in the aforesaid town during his life, on the Chauntry aforesaid, and also to discharge and perform the duties above recited. And it shall not be lawful for the said Sir Thomas either to alienate or assign his right in the said chauntry and tenements, grovages, curtilages, closes, pastures, and pasturages, with their appurtenances to others, without licence of the said Bailiffs and Commonalty and their successors first and fully obtained. In testimony of which, to this part of the said indenture remaining with the said Bailiffs and Commonalty, the said Thomas Osse has affixed his seal. Given at Gumecester aforesaid, the 20th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and ninety-nine.

The Chauntry of St. Mary or Roodes was assessed, in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry 8th, at £7 7s. 11½d. per annum.

CANTARIA IN GODMANCHESTER, A. D. 1534.

Thomas Peynton, Capellanus		Thomas Peynton, Chaplain.	
iſm.		£. s. d.	
Valet in proficuis provenien' de cantaria iſm tam in tenement' terr' arabilibꝫ prat' pascuis et pastur' eidem cantarie pertinen' per annū. . . .	}	Profits accruing to the Chauntry, either from tenements, arable land, meadows, pastures or pasturage belonging to the Chauntry, per annum . . . . .	
		9 3 4	
Repris'.			
In denar' solut' versus feod' firm' ville de Godmanchester per annū . . . . .	}	From which deduct towards the fee-farm rent of the town of Godmanchester, per annum . . . . .	
		1 15 4½	
		Clear ann. revenue 7 7 11½	
		The Tenth . . . . 0 14 11½	
Et reman'.. vij vij xiob			
Xma inde.. — xiiij ixob			

THE GUILD OR CHAUNTRY OF CORPUS CHRISTI.

The foundation of this Guild was, perhaps, as antient as that of St. Mary's. In the 35th of Edward 1st, Thomas Robyns<sup>a</sup> left "to the fraternity of the Guild of Corpus Christi a rood of meadow lying in Hudpool, and a quarter of barley,"<sup>a</sup> which implies that the fraternity was at that time a regu-

<sup>a</sup> Vide Robyns's Will, page 254.



larly organised body. With respect to the early history of this and the two following Guilds, it is involved in that general desolation of historical facts, consequent on the ruthless destruction of monastic libraries, ecclesiastical registries, and manuscripts, at the Reformation, prior to which event religious houses were almost the sole repositories of records, of registers,<sup>r</sup> of learning, and of the arts. In 1471, Syr John Copgray, Vicar of Alconbury, left to this Chauntry, by will, twenty acres of meadow, by which donation the possessions of the Chauntry were increased to forty acres of meadow and grovage, lying intermixed with the lands of Godmanchester: upon which John Alrede and John Bygge, Masters or Governors<sup>s</sup> of the Fraternity of Corpus Christi in Godmanchester, con-

<sup>r</sup> On the contemplated overthrow of the Monastic Orders in England, Parish Registers were ordered to be kept in churches. "This month of September, A. D. 1539, Thomas Cromwell, Lord Privy Seal, &c., sent forth instructions to all Bishops and Curates throughout the realm, charging them to see that a Book of Register was provided and kept in every parish church, wherein shall be written every wedding, christening, and burying within the same parish for ever."—*Stow's Chronicle*.

The earliest registers of Godmanchester parish commence A. D. 1603; if any were kept previous to that date, they are now lost.

<sup>s</sup> Magistri, Gardiani—Masters or Governors, were the chief officers of the Guild. Each Guild had commonly two or four stewards, called Gardiani, Scabini, Scavini, Skyvens, or Magistri, who were annually elected from the brethren, and when sworn, entrusted with the goods and chattels of the fraternity; their duty was to employ them for the good of the Guild, collect rents, &c.

veyed the Chauntry by deed, indented<sup>t</sup> to Sir Robert Dobyn, Chaplain, for life, on condition that he should constantly reside on the said Chauntry in Godmanchester, and on every Sabbath-day celebrate the mass of the Holy Trinity, with certain appointed prayers and collects ; and that in the course of the service he should stand before the altar, and say, in English—

“ Ye schall pray especially for the good state, welfare, and p̄spite of all the brethern and sistern of this Gyld of Corpus Xri, and for all the sawles of the same past to the mercy of God, and euspecyaly for the sawle of Syr John Copgray, sum tyme vicary of Alkinbury, and chiefe founder of this Gylde, and for the sowles of hys parentis, for their sowles, and all cristen sowles.”

The deed was sealed by the parties in the Guild-hall (*Gylda-Aula*) of Godmanchester, on the festival of Corpus Xri, A. D. 1471. In the 6th of Henry 7th, on the death of Sir Robert Dobyn, John Ozwell, Clerk, was appointed officiating Chaplain to the Chauntry of Corpus Christi, and by deeds<sup>u</sup> indented, stipulated with Thomas Laxton and Edward Barre, Masters or Guardians of the Guild, for the possession of the Guild, together with an annuity of eight marcs of English money ; annually to be paid by the said Guardians at the Feast of the Nativity, the Feast of St. John the Baptist, the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, and at Easter, dur-

<sup>t</sup> The Latin original is amongst the Corporation Records.

<sup>u</sup> The Latin original is amongst the Records of the Corporation.

ing the life of the said John Ozwell, on condition that he should constantly reside on the said Chauntry in Godmanchester, and perform similar sacerdotal duties to those specified in the above recited contract between the Governors of the Guild and Sir Robert Dobyn. The deeds of covenant were sealed on the Feast of St. Mathew the Apostle, A.D. 1490.

This Chauntry, like the former, continued to receive accessions of endowment, as in the Will of Thomas Froste, in 1491, to the time of its suppression.

#### THE GUILD OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

By the Will of Agnes Lane, August 5th, 1483, we find half an acre of meadow lying in Moreland, left to the Fraternity of the Guild of the Holy Trinity; and in the Will of Thomas Hewind, Nov. 8th, 1495, in the Archdeacon's Registry Office in Huntingdon.

#### Gumecestr'.

<p>Item lego fratitat Sçe Trinitat' iðm una acra di<sup>9</sup> acre terræ arraß in Bas-croft iuxt le hadland rectorie.</p>	<p>I leave to the Fraternity of the Holy Trinity, in Gumecestr' aforesaid, an acre and a half of arable land in Bascroft, near the rectory headland.</p>
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Notwithstanding these endowments in the name of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, it is most probable that the Fraternity was merged into the Guild of Corpus Christi, from the Guardians of that Guild stipulating with Sir Robert Dobyn that he

should, on every Sabbath-day, celebrate the mass of the Holy Trinity.

THE GUILD OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST.

But little is on record relative to this antient Guild. As early as the year 1306<sup>v</sup> we find it mentioned in the Will of Thomas Robyns, “to the Fraternity of the Guild of Saint John the Baptist, half a quarter of barley;” from which period we pass through a long lapse of time to the year 1534, without finding more than incidental allusions to it. With the copy of a Court-entry of the above date we shall close our notice of this Guild.

Gumecestr’.

Curia tent ibm̄ die Jovis  
pp post festū S̄cē Katerine  
vginis A° Regis Henr° viij  
xxvj<sup>to</sup>.

At a Court held at God-  
manchester on the Thurs-  
day next after the Feast of  
Saint Catherine the Virgin,  
in the 26th year of the reign  
of King Henry 8th.

Ad hanc Curia<sup>o</sup> venerūt  
Joh̄es Frere et Thomas  
Pacy gardiani Gilde fra<sup>l</sup>  
S̄ci Joh̄es Baptiste in eccl̄ia  
beate Marie de Gumecester  
ac ceperunt seasin de et in  
duas acr<sup>o</sup> de leys plant cū  
balucib in le Est fylde juxta  
le Cowe-way ex pte boriali.

To this Court came John  
Frere and Thomas Pacy,  
Guardians of the Fraternity  
of the Guild of Saint John  
the Baptist, in the church  
of the blessed Mary in God-  
manchester, and took seisin  
of and in two acres of leys  
in East-field, near Cow-way  
to the North.

<sup>v</sup> Vide page 254.

<sup>w</sup> Vide Court Rolls, 26th Henry 8th.

Necnon de et in decem acris et una virga tere arrabilibꝫ unde una acra et di<sup>9</sup> jacet juxta Cambrig way ex pte orient, et ij hadlandys in Barscop content di<sup>9</sup> acr<sup>9</sup>, et due acr<sup>9</sup> et di<sup>9</sup> in Fowre-horse-fylde juxta Thomas Pacy ex pte orient et acr<sup>9</sup> et di<sup>9</sup> et una virga in le West-fylde juxta Robtū Kynge ex pte boriali, et di<sup>9</sup> acr<sup>9</sup> in dicto cāpo juxta Joñem Vynter ex pte orient et tres virgas in eodem cāpo juxta Thomas Pacy ex pte orient et di<sup>9</sup> acr<sup>9</sup> in eodem Campo sup Althorpe Hyll et duo acr<sup>9</sup> jacent juxta Elena<sup>9</sup> Bydar vidua ex pte australi in le Lowse-fylde—ñend et tēnendū p̄dicto legs cū tris p̄dict pfatis Joñi Frere et Thome Pacy ad usū frañinta<sup>9</sup> Sci Johis in Ecclesia p̄dicta ex dono et legacone Johis Alred Presbiteris, et Seissiti sunt et soluer<sup>9</sup> p Garsuma ut in Capite. Garsum 2s.

And also of and in ten acres and a rood of arable land, of which one acre and a half lies near Cambridge-way to the east, and two headlands in Bascroft, containing half an acre, and two acres and a half in Four-horse-field, near Thomas Pacys, on the east; and one acre and a half and one rood in the West-field, near Robert King's, on the north; and half an acre in the same field, near John Vinter's, on the east; and three roods in the same field, near Thomas Pacy's, on the east; and half an acre in the same field on Althorp Hill, and two acres lying near Elenor Bydar's, widow, on the south, in Lowse-field—To have and to hold the said leys and lands to the aforesaid John Frere and Thomas Pacy, to the use of the Fraternity of Saint John the Baptist, in the aforesaid church; by the gift and donation of John Alred Presbiter; and they are seised accordingly, and have paid Garson, to wit two shillings.

Whether the whole of these Chauntries and Guilds were comprehended, or merely that of Roodes, in the Valor of Henry 8th, is not stated.—The work of ecclesiastical spoliation was now about to commence. By an Act of Parliament passed in March, A.D. 1535, the suppression of one hundred and eighty-one lesser monasteries took place, whose revenues amounted to £32,000 per annum, which were seized upon by the Crown, together with plate, jewels, shrines, &c. producing in the whole, by their sale, upwards of £100,000 in specie. In 1540, the suppression of the larger monasteries was also effected by an Act of Parliament passed 31st Henry 8th, entitled, “An Act whereby all manors, lands, profits, and hereditaments, belonging to any monasteries or other religious houses dissolved, or hereafter by any means to be dissolved, are assured to the King’s Highness, his heirs and successors for ever.” Under these enactments the accumulated wealth of the church was wrested from its devotees, in a manner and under pretexts which it is not our province here to enlarge upon: the sacred edifices, which the piety of ages had erected and consecrated to religion and learning, were overthrown; and, in the demolition of the sanctuaries of antiquity, history, and literature, their valuable libraries and important manuscripts were involved in one common ruin. In all, 1148, monasteries were destroyed, whose rental produced £183,707 per annum, and their immense posses-

sions, in a great measure, impropriated by free grants to laymen; though in some instances effected by almost nominal purchases.

In the reign of Edward the 6th, the great work of monastic destruction commenced by his father, was completed. That Monarch was but little more than nine years of age when he ascended the throne, and his preceptors, Dr. Cox and Sir John Clarke, names well known in the History of the Reformation, advised the continuance of those measures which lead to the entire overthrow of Catholicism in this kingdom. One of the first Acts of his Parliament, entitled, "An Act for Chauntries Collegiate," conferred upon the King all Chauntries, free Chapels, &c. which had been unmolested in the preceding reign. It provided, "that the King should have and enjoy all lands theretofore by any person given, to be employed wholly to the founding and maintenance of any anniversary or obit, or any light or lamp in any church; that all fraternities and brotherhoods should be given to the King, with all manors, lands, &c. appertaining to the same; and that Commissioners should be appointed to survey all lay Corporations, Guilds, and Fraternities, and inspect the evidence, writings, &c." By this Act of Parliament, those endowments only were preserved which had been formed for the purpose of founding grammar schools. In the following year, A.D. 1548, 90 Colleges, 110 Hospitals, and 2374 Chauntries and free Chapels were suppressed, in-

cluding those of Godmanchester, their jewels and other moveables carried into the Exchequer, and their manors, lands, &c annexed to the Crown, and subsequently variously impropriated, after the manner of the possessions of the dissolved monasteries, abbeys, &c.

By letters-patent, dated May 26th, A.D. 1582, Queen Elizabeth granted the lands, houses, &c. of the Chauntry and Guilds in Godmanchester to John Pounte, on a term of twenty-one years, at a reserved rent of £35 16s. 10d., whose interest in the premises was subsequently purchased by Peter Proby, gentleman, of London, who, on the 7th day of May, A.D. 1592, obtained a farther demise of them from the Crown for twenty-one years, at the rent of £35 16s. 10d. per annum, £5 15s. 5d. of which was yearly remitted as being the rent-charge upon the lands and houses of the Chauntries towards the fee-farm rent of the town, and a farther sum of four shillings, being an eleemosynary charge due from the Chauntries to the poor of the town.

We shall here recite the covenant between Peter Proby and the Crown, as it contains a specification of the property of the Chauntry and Guilds, and the manner of their demise for a term of years.

This Indenture,\* made between the most excellent Princess our Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. on the one part, and Peter Proby, gentleman, of Lon-

\* The Latin original is amongst the Corporation records.



don, on the other part, witnesseth—That whereas our aforesaid Queen, by deed indented and sealed with the Dutchy Seal of Lancaster, at the Palace at Westminster, bearing date the 26th of May, in the twenty-fourth year of her reign, granted, yielded, and demised at lease to John Pounte all the Chauntry called Roodes, and all the Guild of Corpus Christi, and all the Guild of the Holy Trinity called Trinity Guild, in Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon, and all and singular the lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and other possessions whatsoever, given, granted, intended, and ordained for the founding and supporting of various obits, anniversaries, and lights in the parish church of Godmanchester aforesaid, in the said county of Huntingdon. And all and singular the lands, tenements, and hereditaments to the said Chauntry and Guilds, and all manner of possessions that to either or all of them were in any way appertaining, and which were particularly expressed and recited in the aforesaid Indenture—that is to say, a tenement in Godmanchester aforesaid, lately in the tenure of John Senews; another edifice or building, in the tenure of Thomas Peyton, then lately (Chaplain) of the said Chauntry; and also  $54\frac{3}{4}$  acres of arable land, lately in the tenure of Edward Wilson, and 22 acres and one rood of meadow, lately in the tenure of the said Edward; and also  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres of pasture land, and a barn and an orchard, lately in the tenure of the said Edward; which lands and tenements lately belonged to the aforesaid Chauntry of Roodes, and were parcel of the possessions of the said Chauntry, and situated, lying, and being in Godmanchester aforesaid. And also one house or tenement, lately in the tenure of Robert Farmary, and 80 acres and a half and one rood of meadow, lying in East-meadow, West-meadow, Small-thorns, Reed-meadow, Hudpool, and Moreland, lately in

the separate tenures of various inhabitants of the town aforesaid, and the aforesaid Guild, called Corpus Christi Guild, then lately belonging to and being parcel of the possessions of the said late Guild. And also a tenement, lately in the tenure of Edmund Archpold, and a small grove of wood, lately in the tenure of the Bailiffs of the said town of Godmanchester, and 22 acres of meadow, lying and being in the above-named meadows, and lately in the tenure of various inhabitants of the said town and Guild of the Holy Trinity, lately belonging to and forming part of the possessions of the said late Guild of the Holy Trinity. And also 41 acres and a half of meadow, lying in the above-named meadows, and late in the occupation of various inhabitants of the said town, which said meadows last specified were formerly given and granted for the finding and maintenance of various lamps, lights, and obits in the parish church of Godmanchester aforesaid, in the said county of Huntingdon. All and singular which lands, tenements, &c., as above-mentioned, are situate, lying, and being in Godmanchester aforesaid, and were lately given and granted to the Lord Edward the Sixth, late King of England, by virtue and authority of Parliament, and by the legislation and authority of Parliament were late annexed to the said Dutchy of Lancaster, and all woods and underwoods in and upon the premises, or in any way whatever appertaining to them (except the above-named small grove before demised) for the said Queen, her heirs and successors. To have and to hold all and singular the lands, tenements, and premises above specified, with their appurtenances, to John Pounte and his assigns, from the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary then last past, previous to the date of the before recited Indenture until the term of twenty-one years from that period next following, shall be fully and

completely expired. Paying for the same annually to the aforesaid Queen, her heirs and successors, £35 16s. 10d. of lawful English money, at the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, and at Easter, by equal proportions annually during the said term, as is more fully and at large explained and recited in the aforesaid Indenture; which said Indenture of the premises made to the aforesaid John Pounte, and all his title and interest during the said term of years in the aforesaid Indenture and premises, the said Peter Proby now has, as the aforesaid Queen is given to understand; therefore, in consideration of the premises, and the possession of them, and the possession of the aforesaid Indenture and his title for the term of years, and his interest in the premises, that is to say, from Easter in the 34th year of the reign of our Lady Queen Elizabeth, and which the said Peter Proby, before our Chancellor and Council in the aforesaid Dutchy, in the Court of the said Dutchy at Westminster, of our said Queen, has returned and restored to our said Queen, and cancelled, and there also the said cancelling took place to the intention and effect that the aforesaid Queen should do with respect to the premises what she deemed best and most advisable; which said gift of release to the aforesaid Queen is hereby acknowledged, and by these presents in due form acknowledged. Whereupon our Lady the Queen, for good and sufficient considerations previously made by the said Peter Proby to our said Queen, and in consideration of the said Gift of Release, by the advice and consent of her Council of her said Dutchy of Lancaster, yields, grants, and demises at fee-farm to the aforesaid Peter Proby, gentleman, all that Chauntry of Roods, and all that Guild of Corpus Christi, and all that Guild of the Holy Trinity, (here follows a recapitulation of the grant with the mere verbal additions of *plus aut minus* to the lands enumer-

ated,) to have and to hold all and singular the lands, tenements, and meadows, &c. the premises, as above specified, with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid Peter Proby and his assigns from the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past previous to the said date, to the end of the term of twenty-one years then next following; paying for the same annually to the aforesaid Queen, her heirs and successors, £35 16s. 10d. of lawful English money, at the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel and at Easter, by equal proportions annually during the said term. And the aforesaid Farmer, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, agrees and undertakes with the aforesaid Queen, her heirs and successors, every third year during the said term, to make and assess a new and true rental of the lands, tenements, grovages, &c. the before-recited premises, and to deliver the said rental into the hands of the Auditor of the said premises, or his Deputy for the time being, Auditor at Higham Ferrars. And the aforesaid Queen by these presents agrees for herself, her heirs and successors, annually during the said term, to excuse, remit, and indemnify the said Farmer, his executors and assigns, of the aforesaid rent, £5 19s. 5d. chargeable on the said premises, that is to say, to the Bailiffs of Godmanchester aforesaid £5 15s. 5d., and to the poor of the said town four shillings annually. And the aforesaid Farmer, for himself, his executors, administrators and assigns, bargains and agrees with the aforesaid now Queen, her heirs and successors, that he, his executors, administrators and assigns, will well and sufficiently keep, repair, build, make and maintain all and singular the houses, buildings, &c. the premises above specified with their appurtenances, and will from time to time dike, ditch, and fence, and do all manner of repairs in and upon the premises during the

said term ; in short, to the end of the said term will keep, sustain, build, make, and maintain all and every thing thus demised. In consideration of which the said Farmer and his assigns shall have of the aforesaid Queen, her heirs and successors, good and sufficient timber growing in and upon the premises, to be taken with the consent and under the direction of the Supervisor of the Woods of our Lady the Queen, her heirs and successors, in the aforesaid Dutchy. And also shall have good and sufficient fireboote, ploughboote, and carteboote growing upon the premises, to be used thereon and not elsewhere, at the individual cost and expenses of the said Farmer and his assigns during the said term. And if it shall happen that the annual rent of £35 16s. 10d. is in part or altogether in arrear, and not paid to our General-receiver of the premises or his Deputy, within forty days next after either of the above feasts at which it ought to be paid, or in the event of this Indenture not being enrolled for the space of one year now following before our Auditor of the Premises for the time being, that then these presents of demise and grant are revoked and of none effect in law.— In testimony of which, &c. given at the Palace of Westminster aforesaid, under the Seal of our said Dutchy, the 7th day of May, in the year of the Reign of our Lady Queen Elizabeth the thirty-fourth.

On the town being incorporated by James the First, A.D. 1604, the Bailiffs and Assistants were induced by Richard Shute, their Town Clerk, to proceed by Bill in the Dutchy Court, to recover from Peter Proby the Chauntry lands, averring that the general words of the new charter conveyed to them all the right and title the King had to

those lands as parcel of the manor ; and as a prelude to the litigation, advised them to grant a perpetual annuity to the King and his heirs of £30 a year,<sup>7</sup> being the amount of the reserved rent to the Crown, after deducting the fee-farm rent in the demise to Peter Proby. This was over-ruled by the Court, and deemed a vexatious proceeding against the Devisee, on which Shute demanded of the Corporation his costs and expenses. The Corporation, disappointed with not having obtained the Chauntry lands, and irritated by their liability to the annuity, refused to pay Shute, and he in turn became Plaintiff in the Dutchy Court against them. The matter was in vain referred to the consideration of the Recorder, who declined arbitrating, but reported thereon to Sir Thomas Parrey, Knight, Chancellor of the Dutchy, when, after various replications on the part of the Corporation and answers by Shute, the Court ordered a release from the annuity, and a suspension of the payment of Shute's costs, until he procured the Corporation a release under the Great Seal from the annuity and arrearages, in which state of the business Shute died. Sir Thomas Panton, of South Lambeth, in Surrey, Knt., and " Dame Marie, his wifie, sole executrix of Richard Shute, gentleman, deceased," by indenture<sup>2</sup> with Henry Mayle, then Bailiff, on the part of the Corporation, compounded

<sup>7</sup> This grant bears date July 12th, 1604.

<sup>2</sup> July 2d, 1614.

the claims of Shute for £20, and undertook to obtain a release from the annuity and the arrearages thereof for the further consideration of four-score pounds. The release passed the Great Seal and the Dutchy Seal on the 23d of June, A. D. 1615, An. Reg. Jacob. 13<sup>o</sup>, and the Corporation claim to the Chauntry lands was relinquished.

Previous to the falling in of Proby's lease, James the 1st granted, by letters-patent, dated Jan. 17th, A. D. 1607, to William Lord Mounteagle, and at his instance, to Edward Newporte, Esq., and John Crompton, Gentleman, the lands, tenements, &c. belonging to the Chauntry and Guilds to be held as of the Manor of East Greenwich, in Kent, reserving a crown rent of £29 17s. 5d., and the accustomed fee-farm rent payable in common from these as all other lands in Godmanchester; but in consequence of the Corporation claim to the Chauntry lands being at that time in agitation, the fee-farm rent by the new Devisee was withheld, on which an application for the recovery of it was made against him by suit in the Dutchy Court, which recognized the grant to Lord Mounteagle, and issued a decree,<sup>a</sup> commanding the payment of the fee-farm rent, bearing date Feb. 15th, A. D. 1608.

At some period subsequent to these events, (the date of which, and in what manner effected, we have been unable to ascertain,) the lands, &c. of

<sup>a</sup> Vide Decree of the Dutchy Court, in the Record Chamber.

the Chauntries and Guilds have been annexed to the rectory, on whose lessee the old crown rent of £30 per annum is charged as an annuity in augmentation of the vicarage, as also with the sum of £5 19s. 5d. to the annual fee-farm rent of the town.

### CHURCH FEES, 1822.

In a terrier of the parish of Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon and diocese of Lincoln, bearing date July 2d, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, and signed by W. C. Ridley, officiating Minister, for James Chartres, Vicar; John Lancaster, William Reeve, Churchwardens; Thomas Fox, Richard Miles, James Strangward, James Veasey, John Kisby, John Kisby, jun. William Briggs, John Burley, Thos. Maile, Robert Maile, Inhabitants, is contained as follows :

#### *Surplice Fees to Minister.*

	£.	s.	d.
“ An oblation at every churching of women . .	0	0	6
Item—At every wedding by publication of banns	0	6	0
Item—For every wedding by licence . . . .	0	14	0
Item—For every funeral taken in church without a sermon . . . . .	0	5	0
Item—For ditto, where the interment is in church or chancel, double fees.			

#### *Vicarage Value.*

“ Item—Also thirty pounds per annum paid by the Rector of the parish to the Vicar. The lands allotted to the vicarage are valued by the Commissioners under the in-



closure at £343 8s. 9d., exclusive of surplice fees, and the £30 paid by the Rector to the Vicar.

*Parish Clerk.*

“There is also due to the Parish Clerk, from every family, 4d. Marriage by banns, 2s. ; by licence, 5s. By funerals, when taken in church, 3s. Not going in church, 2s. Every interment in church or chancel, double fees. For every christening, 1s. ; and for every proclamation, 6d.

*Sexton.*

“There is also due to the Sexton, for digging grave, tolling the bell, and the like at the funeral, 2s. 8d.”

A true extract, having been examined with the original Terrier, remaining in the Registry of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln.

(Signed)                      ROBERT SWAN,  
Dep. Reg.

Godmanchester, County of Huntingdon.

*Sexton.*

“Sexton’s fees omitted when the Terrier was made and delivered, and stands dated the 17th day of July, 1822:

“Item—For every wedding by banns, 6d. Item—For every wedding by licence, 2s. 6d. Item—For tolling bell and digging grave, 2s. 8d. Item—For tolling bell at a funeral, 1s. 6d. Item—For every funeral taken in church, 1s. Item—For every interment in church or chancel, double fees.”

We, the Minister, Churchwardens, and other parishioners, do hereby certify that the above fees are correct, as witness our hands this 23d day of August, 1823, James Chartres, Minister ; John Lancaster, Wm. Reeve, Church-

wardens ; James Strangward, Thomas Fox, Charles Pope, Samuel Bates, Richard Miles, Thos. Maile, Parishioners.

A true extract, having been examined with the original Terrier remaining in the Registry of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln.

(Signed)

ROBERT SWAN.

*Lincoln, 31st Oct. 1826.*

*Dep. Reg.*

# NOTICES OF VICARS, CHAPLAINS, AND CURATES OF GODMANCHESTER,

FROM A.D. 1209 TO A.D. 1831.

A. D.

1209. Between the years 1209 and 1234 Robertus Clicus, presented to the Vicarage.<sup>b</sup>

1303. Rogerus Strateshill, Capellanus.<sup>c</sup>

1306. Dñs William, Capellanus ; and Dñs Lawrence, Capellanus.<sup>d</sup>

1367. Dñs Henricus, Vicar Ecclie de Gumecest.<sup>e</sup>

1431. John Copegray, Chapelyn of Gumecestr.<sup>f</sup>

1457. Johis Grene, Vicar Ecclie de Gumecestr.<sup>g</sup>

1471. Dñs Robertus Dobyn, appointed Chaplain of Corpus Christi Guild.<sup>h</sup>

1483. Dñ Joñes Oxen, Capell.<sup>i</sup>

<sup>b</sup> Vide p. 228, and Appendix, No. 9.

<sup>c</sup> Vide Rot. Orig. p. 259.

<sup>d</sup> Vide Robyn's Will, p. 254.

<sup>e</sup> Was used in a Plea of Trespass by Alexander Alred.—*Vide Court Rolls, 42d Edw. 3d.*

<sup>f</sup> Vide Arbitrium de Pontibus.

<sup>g</sup> Admitted to the seisin of land in the Court Rolls, 35th of Henry 6th.

<sup>h</sup> Vide p. 266.

<sup>i</sup> Took seisin of a house.—*Vide Court Rolls, A. D. 1483.*

1490. Johanes Ozwell, Clerk, appointed Chaplain of Corpus Christi Guild.<sup>j</sup>
1499. Dñs Thomas Osse, appointed Chaplain to the Chauntry.<sup>k</sup>
1503. Maystr Robert Dieton, Vicar of Godmanchester.<sup>l</sup>
1504. Robert Aston, Vicar.<sup>m</sup>
1534. John Alred, Presbiter, left property to the Guild of St. John the Baptist.
1534. Thoms Byllington, est Vicarius.<sup>n</sup>
1534. Thomas Peynton, Chaplain of the Chauntry.<sup>o</sup>
1542. Cristofer Robie Clarke, Vicar, allowed to hold land conditionally.<sup>p</sup>
1550. William Samuel, Vicar, admitted to the Freedom of Godmanchester.<sup>q</sup>
1558. Robert Durant, Vicar of Godmanchester.<sup>r</sup>
1590. Mr. Barnwell, Vicar.
1604. Rev. John Wibarne, Vicar, who officiated to March 1634; after whom the Cure was discharged by the Rev. G. Nelson, to June 1635.<sup>s</sup>
1636. Rev. D. Gardiner, Vicar, who officiated until March 29th, 1644, when it was sequestered from him, and served by occasional Ministers until the year 1651.<sup>t</sup>

<sup>j</sup> Vide p. 267.<sup>k</sup> Vide p. 262.<sup>l</sup> Alluded to in the Court Rolls of that year.<sup>m</sup> Ibid.<sup>n</sup> Valor Ecclesiasticus, p. 240.<sup>o</sup> Ibid.<sup>p</sup> Vide p. 249.<sup>q</sup> "Ad hanc Cur' venit Willm Samuell, Vicar de Godmanchester' et admissus est ad lib' tatem ville et solvit p'fin'm ut in capite et jurat est. Fin. 6s. 8d."—*Vide Court Rolls*.<sup>r</sup> Vide Pleadings in the Star Chamber relative to the Free School.<sup>s</sup> "Mr. John Wibarne, Batcheloure in Divinity and Vicar of this Parish, was buried the 15th day of June, 1635."—*Godm. Burial Reg.*<sup>t</sup> Vol. 459 of the Lansdown MSS. Brit. Mus. professes to be

1651. The Rev. John Badcock, Vicar, presented thereto by the Sequestrators and Commissioners of the Commonwealth.<sup>u</sup>
1691. The Rev. James Heywood, Vicar, presented by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.<sup>v</sup>
1729. The Rev. Charles Potter, Vicar.<sup>v</sup> He officiated four years himself, and then by four successive Curates, viz: the Rev. John Dowsing, Rev. Skinner Spencer, Rev. William Warner, and Rev. Charles Southgate.
1759. The Rev. William Williams, Vicar,<sup>w</sup> who officiated for fifteen years, viz. to 1774. The Cure was

“ A Register of Church Livings, with their actual incomes, and the names of the Patrons and Incumbents. At p. 95, it states that there is ‘ no incumbent; the Cure is supplied by hired ministers, it being sequestered from *Mr. Garner*, the Vicar.’ It is supposed to have been made about the year 1644, for the use of the Commissioners appointed in the ‘ Act for ejecting scandalous, ignorant, and insufficient Ministers.’ ”—*Vide Index to Lansdown MSS. Brit. Mus.*

<sup>u</sup> In 1651, “ Mr. John Badcock was presented thereto by the Sequestrators and Commissioners of those times. Mr. Badcock complying, it seems, with the terms of the Bartholomew Act, sat Vicar here from 1651 to 1691, viz. 40 ann.: and in the same year, about Midsummer, the Dean and Chapter of Westminster presented to the vacancy (upon Mr. Badcock’s decease) James Heywood, A.M., then student of Christ Church, Oxon, who is, through God’s mercy and good providence, the present Vicar of Godmanchester and Lecturer of Huntingdon.”—*Vide the above in the MS. of James Heywood, prefixed to a Parish Register, “ dated 22 die Nov. An. Dom. 1721.”*—Upwards of 2000 Ministers were ejected by what is called the Bartholomew Act, which passed August 24th, 1662, for non-conforming.

<sup>v</sup> Institution Rolls, Buckden Palace.

<sup>w</sup> *Ibid.*

subsequently performed under him by the Rev. William Panchen.

1777. The Rev. Thomas Rutterforth, licensed Prelector, August, 1777.<sup>x</sup>

1782. The Rev. Matthew Salmon, Vicar.<sup>y</sup> The Cure served by the Rev. Castle Sherard, then Lessee of the Rectorial Tithes, and the Rev. William Panchen.

1797. The Rev. Joseph Wattson, Vicar.<sup>z</sup>

1806. The Rev. James Chartres, Vicar;<sup>a</sup> who was served in the Cure by the Rev. P. C. Sherard to 1810, Rev. J. R. Wardle to 1813, Rev. Thomas Stanley, LL.D. to 1815, and who then officiated himself until 1823.

1823. The Rev. William Tournay, D.D., Vicar.<sup>b</sup> The Cure was performed by the Rev. Henry Parsons.

1829. The Rev. Charles Gray, present Vicar, whose Cure is performed by the Rev. James Smyth.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>x</sup> Institution Rolls, Buckden Palace.

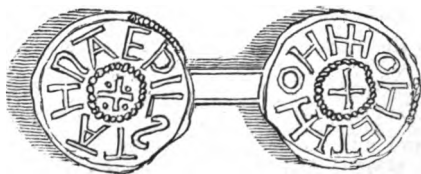
<sup>a</sup> Ibid.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>y</sup> Ibid.

<sup>z</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.



## CHAPTER X.

## THE CHURCH.



N our Ecclesiastical History is noticed the early existence of a Church in Godmanchester, and which, probably, in some form, however rude, originated when Christianity became the adopted religion of the country. In the reigns of Edgar, William the Conqueror, and Stephen, the revenues of the Church were appropriated; but the precise date of erection of the present structure, which is entered by a descent of three steps, is now involved in doubt; the remains of its rood loft, and style of architecture, refer it to the middle Catholic ages, when ornamental tracery was generally introduced in our religious edifices. It is built in the light and mixed Gothic or early English style, so much adopted in the reign of Henry 7th, and consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel, the roofs of which

are of timber covered with lead. The nave is separated from the aisles on each side by five corresponding high pointed arches<sup>a</sup> rising from light shafts, and from the chancel by a large high pointed arch, now partly pannelled up, and bearing in front of it the King's arms, splendidly emblazoned. The interior of the Church was remodelled in the year 1827, when the reading desk and pulpit, formerly situated in the north centre of the nave, were removed to the south junction of the nave and chancel, where the minister may be heard and seen by the congregation to the greatest advantage. Before the corresponding pillar at the north entrance of the chancel, is the Bailiffs' pew, which, together with those of the Assistants, Town Clerk, and Sub-bailiff, fill up the eastern termination of the nave. The Assistants' seats, with their lofty wainscot backs, possess much of their antient splendour, but their original character is concealed by the erection of modern pews before them. They form a continuation of curiously carved comfortable arm chairs, with turn-up seats, fashioned after the manner of cathedral prebendal stalls, and their

<sup>a</sup> In the reign of Henry 3d, a style of architecture was introduced, which, from its singular high pointed arch, and to distinguish it from the semicircular Saxon, universally went by the name of Gothic; but it has been suggested, that the term, English would be more appropriate, there being very little doubt that the high pointed arch, struck from two centres, was invented in this country, where it was brought to its highest state of perfection.

reading desks are ornamented and relieved by grotesque representations of birds, heads of men, animals, and monsters.<sup>b</sup> In the Bailiffs' pew are the following inscriptions on a carved oak pannel, the former of which probably refers to some general repairs of the Church :

**A; DISB. BAILLES. TH VIN TARCHA, FINE MORE**

This seat was Rebuilt  
1758,  
JOHN JACKSON, Esq.  
and  
HUGH FERRAR, Gent.  
Bailiffs.

The nave is appropriated to rustic benches, and at its western extremity is the baptismal font, and a modern gallery for the choir. The font is of an hexagonal form, hewn out of a block of limestone, and some imperfect sculptures, on its front and sides, are still visible.<sup>c</sup> The aisles are well

<sup>b</sup> Grotesque figures and carvings, which are so common in Churches, were invented by Marchion of Arezzo, an architect in the employ of Pope Innocent the 3d, who died in 1216. They were first used only to support columns, but were afterwards applied to spouts, and various other purposes.

*History of Stamford.*

<sup>c</sup> "Fonts were antiently adorned with images and carvings of saints and holy men, to the end, that such as were baptized might have before their eyes the representation of those persons, eminent for holiness and virtue, whose actions they were to imitate."—*Staveley's Hist. of Churches.*



pewed, and the windows are divided by mullions into several lights, in which are contained some relics of painted glass, which, being irregularly distributed, indicate that the windows have been illumined with Scripture representations.

The only remains of the rood loft<sup>d</sup> now left, is a

<sup>d</sup> In Sleaford Church, Lincolnshire, is a richly carved canopied Screen, dividing the body of the Church from the Chancel, the upper part of which formed the Rood Loft, which is still entire.—In the Churchwardens' accompts of St. Helen's, by J. Ward, (*Archæologia*, vol. i.) are various items as charges for the Rood Loft and Lights.

A. D.		s.	d.
1555.	An. 1 and 2 Phil. and Mary—Payde for making the roode and peynting the same .....	5	4
	For making the roode lyghtes.....	10	6
	Received for the holye looft lyghtes .....	33	4
	For the roode lyghtes at Christmas.....	23	2ob
1557.	Received of the Paryshe for the roode lyghtes at Christmas .....	21	9
	Of the Clarke for the holy loft .....	36	8
	Payde for peynting the roode of Marie and John and the Patron of the Churche .....	6	8
	For the roode Mary and John, with the Patron of the Church .....	18	0
	For making the roode lyghtes.....	15	5
	For the roode Mary and John and the Patron..	7	0
1558.	Received for roode lyghtes at Christmas.....	18	6
1559.	For roode lyghtes at Christmas .....	18	3ob
1560 or 3d of Eliz <sup>th</sup> —	Of Wm. Dalve for the holye lofte .....	6	4
1561 or 4th of Eliz <sup>th</sup> —	To the Somner for bringing the order for the roode loft .....	0	8
	To the Carpenter and others for taking down the roode lofte, and stopping the holes in the wall where the joices stode .....	15	8

winding flight of stone steps, in a circular tower exterior to the Church, at the south junction of the nave and chancel, the entrances to which are concealed by the Assistants' pew, pulpit, and reading-

To the peynter for wrighting the Scripture where  
the roode lofte stooode, and overthwarte the  
same isle ..... 3 4

Mr. Ward observes, that by the roode was meant either a crucifix, or the image of some saint, erected in Popish Churches. And here that name is given to the images of Mary and John; as also to that of St. Helen, the patroness of the Church. These images were set in shrines or tabernacles, and the place where they stood was called the Roode-loft, which was commonly over, or near the passage out of the body of the Church into the chancel. Fuller, in his *History of Waltham Abbey*, says, "And, wot you what spiritual mystery was couched in this position thereof? The Church (forsooth) typified the Church militant; the chancel represents the Church triumphant, and all who will pass out of the former into the latter, must go under the rood-loft, i. e. carry the cross and be acquainted with affliction;" this, he adds, because Harpsfield (*Fox, Act. and Man.* p. 1690) confesseth himself ignorant of the rood situation. Anno. 1554, or the 1st of Mary, in the Churchwardens' account at Waltham Abbey, "payde for Mary and John that stand in the rood-loft, 26s. 8d.—Christ on the cross saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by."—John, 19th chap., 26th verse. In apish imitation whereof (when perfectly made with all the appurtenances thereof) the rood was attended with these two images.—Vide Fuller's *Hist.* p. 17. In the year 1548, the 1st of King Edward 6th, such images and their shrines were ordered to be taken down, as mentioned by Bishop Burnet in his *History of the Reformation*, vol. ii. b. 1, p. 61; but they are restored again by Queen Mary on her accession in the above-recited account of St. Helen's; and in 1561, or the 4th of Elizabeth, finally abolished.

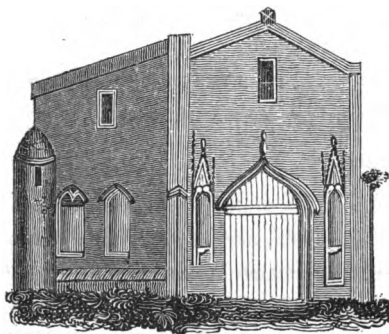
desk. Not having discovered any records relative to the rood loft, or its final demolition, we must refer that event to the year 1573,<sup>e</sup> 15th of Eliza-

<sup>e</sup> In Strype's Memorials, vol. iii. is contained "An Account of Cardinal Pole's Visitation of the Diocese of Lincoln, A. D. 1556," to examine into the due resumption of Catholic ceremonials and conformities, and amongst others, "whether they had a rood in their churches, of decent stature, with Mary and John, and the image of the patron of the church?" Godmanchester is not returned amongst the presentments cited by Strype, therefore most probably the rood loft at that time was still entire; but, as Strype has only recorded some amongst many that were made, we must not infer that Godmanchester was altogether exempted from ecclesiastical censure, particularly when we consider the varied nature of the following presentments:—

"One Hullock, curate of All Saints in Huntingdon, administered the Sacrament to several persons without auricular confessions, using only a general confession in the *English tongue*, such as was accustomed in the time of the schism. He was cast into gaol, then enjoined public penance; and that being performed, he was discharged from ministering any more in the diocese of Lincoln, and so he departed." "Several in Huntingdon, for eating flesh in Lent without a dispensation, were cast into prison, and enjoined to carry fagots two several days." "The vicar of Spaldwick was presented for carrying in his arms his child, which he had in wedlock in the time of the schism, to the scandal of others. He was enjoined to carry it no more, and to make a recantation in the church." "One Burneby, of Brampton, when vicar of the church, on Palm Sunday, opened the doors of the church with the staff of the cross, and said in sport, 'What a sport have we towards? Will our vicar run at quintine with God Almighty.' He submitted himself, and was enjoined public penance." "Enjoined to the parish of Brampton to re-edify a rood-loft and four stone crosses in that parish." "Three of St.

beth; and which circumstance, perhaps, rendered necessary those repairs and alterations in the Church intended to have been commemorated by the inscription of that date in the Bailiffs' pew.

The principal entrance to the Church is by a handsome south porch,



which bears ample testimony of the relaxed devotion of our days; for, as neither pilgrim nor penitent is to be found loitering in the cloisters or precincts of our holy mansions, waiting for the absolution and benediction of the parish priest, this fine antique porch is deformed and inclosed with fold-

Ives who had fled because of religion, now appearing, submitted themselves and recanted the heresies which they held; and being absolved from their excommunication, were put into prison, and afterwards carried faggots." "The vicar of Steukly gave the sacrament to some not confessed, and to some that desired auricular confession he denied it. He was cast into prison, and made a recantation before his parishioners." "It was enjoined to the parishioners of St. Neots, to re-build all the altars that were before the schism in the church, and that they should set up a rood-loft with the images, and this to be done by a parish rate."

ing doors, and its windows blocked up with tasteless plaster. Churches and church porches were formerly places of resort at festivals, and upon other public occasions, an interesting instance of which may be seen in the following curious command from the Bailiffs in the 16th of Elizabeth, at the time of a general dearth :

“ AN. DOM. 1573.—AN ORDER IN THE TIME OF DEARTH  
FROM MR. BAILIFFS FOR THE PORE.

“ Gumecest’.

“ You that be the pore of this prishe. Whereas certaine of you did make your mounse to Mast’ Bailiffs, that corne and grayne was so deare that you where not able to by either busshell or halfe busshell, and as for pecks of grayne you colde seldom gett any for your money. And as seldom colde you gett either peny wheaten loffe peny howsholde, or two peny wheaten or howsholde loffes for your mony at any of the baker’s hands to serve your needs, Wherefore Mast’ Bailieffs haith wylled me to gyve you to understand that they have not onely earnestly entreated Mr. Carter, farmer of the psanage, before he went forth, who gave his bailye a commēdemēt, who doth not deny the same, but that any pore body shall have at all tymes, during the dearth of grayne, as the market doth requyre, either bushell, half bushell, or peck, so long as they have any, but also straightly have charged and comāded all the comon bakers of this towne, upon paine of punyshmet by the body, or fyne to be sett upon their heads, at Mr. Bailieffs disscrecyons, for their contempt in doing the contrary ; to have both peny and two-peny wheaten and howsholde breade once or twise every weeke, and to keepe the assysse thereof, as they will answer it

at their parrelle, that the pore may have breade for their mony, and for y<sup>t</sup> the bakers nor any of them shall make excuse, and say, when the pore come to their howsses for wheaten or howsholde breade, y<sup>f</sup> you had come when we had yt you myght have had ynoughe; this excuse is thought to be made of them bycause their is lyttle gaine in that kynde of brede, y<sup>f</sup> they kepe thassize, and so myght Mr. Bailieff's com̄ndemēt be made frusstrat and voyed, and the pore people still to lacke suche breade as they have neede of. Wherefore to prevent such excuses of the bakers, Mast<sup>r</sup> Bailieffs hath further charged and com̄nded all the com̄on bakers of this towne, and every of them, upon the paine above named, not only to bake peny and two-peny wheaten and howsholde breade, but also they and every of them shall twise every weeke—that is to say, on towisday and on friday in every weeke, weekelye, so long as the derth of grayne continueth betwene the owres of nyne and twellve of y<sup>e</sup> clocke in the forenoone on every of y<sup>e</sup> foresaid ij dayes, and in the Church porche shall sytt, stand, or bee by the space of two owres on every of the foresaid ij daies at the least. And every of the foresaid bakers at the place abovenamed, eche of them having a dozen and a halfe of brede, there to sell to the pore, to say, sixe peny weaten loaves, vj peny howeshold loves, and thre topeny howsholde loaves a pece of every of y<sup>e</sup> bakers aforesaid, under the paine above-named. And if it happen so that the foresaid tewisday or fryday fall upon an holy day, that then all the bakers aforesaide shal be w<sup>th</sup> their breade upon the afore appointed ij dayes at y<sup>e</sup> place before-named, by seven of the clocke in y<sup>e</sup> mornyng, and then and there shall tarry untill viij of the clocke, that is one hole howre. And yf so muche breade as is appointed will not suffize the pore's necessities, then the bakers shall have com̄ndemēt to

provide more. Mast<sup>r</sup> Bailieffs haith appointed an offyccer for every of the daies aforenamed weekly, to see that every of the bakers, namely, as folowith, Robert Evens, the wife of Roger Bushe, Walter Grene, John Chambers, Thomas Fysssher, and Harry Buttermen, do kepe the afore appointed dayes, tymes, and places, and the same of every sort of breade aforenamed, provyded that if the pore people doe not fetch the breade away for their mony, on the dayes and betweene the howres above appointed, that then the bakers may have it away, and sell it to any other at their pleasure.

“The first day y<sup>t</sup> the bakers shall begyne to sell their breade in the Church porche shall be upon tewisday next, and therefore you of the pore that have nede of suche breade may be there at the tyme of the daye afore appointed, and have both wheaten and howseholde breade of all sorts for your mony.”

Over this porch is the Record Chamber,<sup>f</sup> in which all Corporation documents are preserved.

<sup>f</sup> This place appears to have long been, if not always, the Record Chamber, from the following entry in the second year of James 2d. :

“Gumecester alias } “For as much as Mr. Bailiffs and the  
Godmanchester. } major part of the Assistants are mett together this nine and twenty of December, 1687, to consult the affairs and concerns of the Burr. aforesaid. Amongst others, have and doe order that Samuel Fox, jun. p<sup>r</sup>sent Town Clark, doe upon the 10th day of Jan. next, deliver into the hands of the p<sup>r</sup>sent Bailiffs, in the Chamber over the porch, all those books and other writings, that any manner of way belong, or which the Town or Burrough has any right too, or concern in, as well books of entreyes, or wast books, &c.”—*Stock Book A.* p. 589.

The grant of the manor by King John, and confirmations in subsequent reigns; the Charter of Incorporation by James the 1st, and the enlarged but revoked Charter of James the 2d; the Court Rolls, Stock-books, and Rentals, by which the fee-farm rent has been collected for centuries; are there deposited, as also the surrenders or transfers of property, which are carefully registered.

At the eastern extremity of the chancel, which is repaired by the lessee of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, is a handsome wainscot altar-piece, erected A. D. 1731, the gift of Madam Worley,<sup>s</sup> who was buried in the chancel. In the south wall, near the communion-table, is a double piscina, consisting of carved columns and arches, where probably chalices and other holy vessels were placed, or which may point out the situation where the Guilds celebrated their respective anniversaries. Some of the former Vicars of Godmanchester, and the immediate ancestors of the present Rowley family, are here interred, whose memories are recorded by neat mural entablatures and slabs.<sup>h</sup>

<sup>s</sup> The cost of the altar-piece, for materials and workmanship, was £80 17s. 0½d. The original bill is in the Record Chamber.

<sup>h</sup> Epitaphs and monumental inscriptions, even in England, are of great antiquity. King Arthur, who instituted the military order of the Knights of the Round Table, and superseded Paganism at York by the establishment of Christianity, died in 542, and his epitaph was inscribed on the inside of his leaden coffin. The next, in point of time, is considered to be that of St. Augustine, who was sent to England by St. Gregory, to assist in con-



At the entrance of the chancel, in the middle of the naive, is the only brass monumental plate remaining; it formerly contained three figures; the centre represents a man in a devout attitude.



verting the English, and who, by favour of Ethelbert, became Archbishop of Canterbury, A. D. 604. Opinions are various as to the time when the custom of burying in Churches originated. In the earlier ages of Christianity monuments were erected in public path-ways, and by the side of roads, as mementos to travellers of their own mortality. In the seventh century, abbots were buried in the Chapter-house, and monks in the Cloisters; and St. Cuthbert, whose festival in the Romish Calendar is fixed for March 20th, in or about the year 680, is said to have been the first who added yards to churches for the reception of the dead.

On his right and left was a female joining in holy communion, the indentations of which, as well as those of the inscriptions below, are well defined. In the confiscation and plunder of church property at the Reformation, and the no less destructive zeal of Presbyterianism at the Commonwealth, altars, shrines, and images were broken down and utterly destroyed, and even brasses on tombs forcibly wrenched off or mutilated, so that but few inscriptions are now to be found of an earlier date than the reign of Henry 8th. The walls of the aisles are adorned with chaste mural monuments and entablatures.

*Monumental Inscriptions in the Chancel.*

Near this place lies interred the body of Martha, the wife of Geo. Rowley, Gent. who departed this life Nov.

In most instances, public cemeteries were at some distance from the monasteries, and planted with trees and flowers, and preserved with great care from every species of profanation. The modes of interment amongst the antient British tribes are ably discussed by Sir R. C. Hoare, Bart., in his valuable description of the Antiquities, and more particularly Druidical Barrows of Wiltshire. With regard to the Romans, it is generally thought that the custom of burning dead bodies ceased with the Antonines; but Lethiullier observes (*Archæologia*, v. i. p. 75,) that it must have continued to the reign of the last Emperor who took that name, viz. Heliogabalus, since more than thirty years after the death of Marcus Aurelius we have a clear account of the burning of the Emperor Severus, who died at York. At this period it is presumed the custom of sepulture became general; but it has been strongly argued, that the custom did not usually obtain until after the thorough establishment of Christianity.

21, 1765, aged 29; and left issue two sons, (viz.) Owsley, aged 10, and George, aged 5 years. She was the only daughter of y<sup>e</sup> late Thomas Maylam, of Woodchurch, in the county of Kent, Gent.

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Here lieth the body of George Rowley, Esq., who departed this life the 18th Sept. 1798, in the 67th year of his age.

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*On the North Side of the Communion Table, on a Mural Monument.*

In memory of Geoffry Hawkins, Clerk, Rector of Higham Gobion, Bedfordshire, who died in the year 1727. He was son of Geoffry Hawkins, A.M. Clerk, Rector of Chesterton, Huntingdonshire, who was one of the suffering Clergy in 1641. Also of Mary, his wife, who was the widow of Richard Carryer, Gentleman, and died in the year 1750. In this Church lies interred, Hannah Worley, Widow, who erected the Altar in the Chancel, in the year 1731; and died in the year 1771.

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*On Stone Slabs in the floor of the Chancel are these Inscriptions.*

Mr. Richard Caryer died July 12th, 1744. Aged 35.

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Mr. Richard Caryer departed June y<sup>e</sup> 18th, 1709, in y<sup>e</sup> 34 year of his age. In memory of Mr. Robert Vickery, who died the 24 Sept. 1785. Aged 63.

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In memory of the Reverend Mr. Richard Caryer, who died Jan. 18, 1770, in the 41st year of his age.

---

In memory of Mrs. Eliz. Vickery, Wid. of Mr. Rob. Vickery, who departed this life Jan. the 10th. 1796. Aged 56 years.

---

To the memory of a most deserving and dearly beloved son, Thomas Dodgson, Esq. whose mortal remains are here interred. This stone was inscribed by the direction of his affectionate and afflicted parents, Charles, Bishop of Elphin, in the kingdom of Ireland, and Frances Radcliffe Dodgson. He was a student of distinguished merit, of St. John's College, Cambridge, and died at Farm Hall, the 14th January, 1794, in the 19th year of his age; most sincerely lamented by all who knew him.

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*At the West termination of the Naive, on a neat Mural Entablature, on the South side of the Gallery.*

This monument of the instability of human happiness calls to remembrance Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Martin, and only daughter of Mr. John Meadows, of Kettering, who died the 25th of February, 1805. Aged 24 years. Mild, affable, chearful and affectionate, she seemed to live for the *happiness* of others. Early inclined to things sacred, she was ready to every good work. The *Gospel*, which in *life* was dear to her, proved in *death* her all-sufficient *support*. Reader, expect the *day* that shall declare *her* character and *thine*, and let her happy *end* induce thee to tread the paths of *piety*.

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*On the North side of the Gallery.*

In memory of Robert Hicks, Gent. Surgeon and Apothecary, who, during a residence of 37 years, practised successfully in his profession, and repeatedly filled the office of Bailiff in this Borough. He was, at all times, anxious to promote the public good, and, by his last will and testament, confided to trustees his dwelling-house in Post-street, and two other houses next adjoining, to be by them appropriated to the use and support of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth.

He died without issue 30th of July, 1825. Aged 59.—Also of Mary, widow of the Rev. S. Hicks, Rector of Westlingworth, Beds., who died March 1st, 1805. Aged 72.—Also of John Hicks, who died Sept. 9th, 1827. Aged 56.

Hunc propter locum compositi jacent cineres, Thos. Betts, Gent. in hacce villa sæpius Balvici et ibidem Justitarii Pacis Studiosissimi. Nec non quod morti cecidit. Hujus a latere inhumata est pia uxor Eliz<sup>thsa</sup>.

Quos (serius licet absentes) tota hæc inexpletum dolet  
Vicinia. Ecclesia Læta Ambos agnovit suos. Pullata  
ambos luget. At (ea lege vivimus) huic ambos Mors  
haud improvisa appulit.

Obiit. { Alter 1 Septembris . . . . 1696  
          { Altera 23<sup>a</sup> Junii . . . . 1700

Ætate vix non pares..... { 79  
77

Necnodum in Serpo quæras Sapia prim' est, ad mortem sapere, ac addidicisse Deum. In Christo (vixistis enim) requiescite utriq<sub>3</sub>. Quos pietas et causa fides dedit esse beatos Ulteriusq<sub>3</sub> dabit : siquid Pietasq<sub>3</sub> Fidesq<sub>3</sub> ulterius valet. Hoc dabit hoc par nobile cœlo.

*In the South Aisle.*

In memory of Thomas Townsend, late of this parish, who died the 29th of Jan. 1792. Aged 67.—Also Martha, his wife, who died 2d Oct. 1789. Aged 75.—Also John Townsend, son of the above Thomas and Martha Townsend, who died 9th of Nov. 1799. Aged 59.—Also Ann, his wife, who died 25th Sept. 1817. Aged 82.—Also James Stratten, Esq. late of Hackney, in the county of Middlesex, son-in-law of the above Thomas and Martha Townsend, who died 21st of July, 1800. Aged 60.—Also

George Turney, son-in-law of the above George and Ann Townsend, who died 10th of April, 1825. Aged 54.—Also Ann, daughter of John and Ann Townsend, and wife of the above George Turney, who died the 15th Sept. 1826. Aged 52.

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*On a handsome Mural Monument at the eastern extremity of the Nave.*

In memory of Alured Clarke, Esq. who died Oct. 28th, 1744. Aged 86. He first married Sarah Askham, by whom he had Reuben Clarke, D.D. Archdeacon of Essex. His second wife was Ann Trimmell, with whom he lived fifty-five years, and had by her Alured Clarke, D.D. late Dean of Exeter, (who died May 31st, 1742,) and Charles, one of the Barons of the Exchequer.

He was an active, useful, upright magistrate in this town above sixty years, a lover of justice, and friend to the publick. His earnestness to reconcile differences amongst neighbours; his zeal to do good both to his friends and foes; his constant industry and incessant care of his family; his generous, open, cheerful temper; his humanity, good nature, and universal benevolence, (through a long life spent without guile;) rendered him beloved, respected, and honoured by all who knew him.

Reader! his example is worthy your imitation, for he was a truly honest, virtuous, good man.

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*In the centre Aisle, on the Floor.*

Alured Clarke, Esq. died 28th Oct. 1744. Aged 86. John Clarke, Esq. died Dec. 3d, 1745. Aged 79. Ann, the wife of Alured Clarke, Esq. died May 26th, 1755. Aged 88.

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*On a Mural Entablature in the South Aisle.*

Near this place are deposited the remains of Jos<sup>h</sup> Bull,

late of this town, Gent. who died Dec. 16th, 1764. Aged 63. And Ann, his widow, who died Jan. 28th, 1780. Aged 80. And of Elizabeth, their daughter, who died June 14th, 1791. Aged 47.

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*On a Mural Monument.*

Near this place are deposited the remains of Edward Martin, Gent., one of the Assistants of this Borough, who died Feb. 11th, 1799. Aged 56 years. Near this place also, Harriet, infant daughter of the said Edward Martin, Gent., who died Sept. 17th, 1781. Also Alice, relict of the above Edward Martin, who died Oct. 14th, 1801. Aged 56 years.

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*On a Slab, on the Floor.*

Here lies the remains of John Martin, Gent., who died August 16th, 1752. Aged 36 years.

(AND)

Here lies the remains of Jane, the relict of John Martin, Gent, who died Nov. 23d, 1783. Aged 65 years.

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### THE TOWER AND STEEPLE

Are of modern elevation, having been erected in the year 1623. In surveying the annals of time, it is curious to observe the transitions and events which occur in the lapse of ages. We have seen in the History of our Church, that it was intended by Edgar to have been tributary to the Abbey of Ramsey, parochial Churches being generally held of some Abbey, Monastery, or Nunnery, in the earlier ages of Christianity, when its ecclesiastical institutions were reduced to a regular system of canonical government. By the sweeping effects of

the Reformation we have noticed the destruction of Monastic Establishments, Guilds and Fraternities, and the appropriation of their revenues, their confiscation to the state, or the sale or grant of them to lay-men ; and now, after a period of 650 years from its foundation, we find the dilapidated walls of the ruined venerable abbey about to be in part applied to the building of our tower and steeple. In noticing which event, we may presume that, as they were erected with stone<sup>1</sup> from Ramsey Abbey, Huntingdon Priory, and Hinchbrook Nunnery, a brief account of their origin and destruction will not be considered irrelevant to this work.

<sup>1</sup> In "the accompt for the steeple off Mathew Maile and John Stevenson, Churchwardens, from Easter An'o D'ni 1624, for one whole yeare next ensuing, taken before Mr. Bailiffs and the Assistants at the Court Hall," occur numerous entries similar to the following:—"To Richard Bates, for ij tunne of stoane from Hunt<sup>a</sup> Priory, 44s.; to Wm. Rawlins, for ij load of stoane bringing from Ramsey, 6s.; to Robert Chamberlain, for bringing stoane from Ramsey, 45s. &c. Pd to Isaac Ireland, in full, of a bargaine of stoane from the Priory last year, £3; for ij tunn of astoler from Hinchbrook, 13s. 4d.; to Wright, for carriage of stoane from y<sup>e</sup> Abbey-yard to y<sup>e</sup> water-side, 5s.; to Bell, for 4 tunn of inside stone and 9 foot of astoler, 12s.; to Storer, for carriage thereof from the Abbey-yard to the water-side, 2s. 6d.; to Horner himself, in getting stone from Ramsey Abbey-yard to the water-side, 6 daies, 14s. 2d.; to his two sonnes at work with him 13 daies, 8s. 8d.; allowed for Mr. Kendal's mare 13 daies to draw down the stone, 19s. 6d.; to Horner, for helping to load stoanes at Huntington Priory, and helping to lay it up in the church-yard, 2s." &c. &c. &c.



RAMSEY ABBEY.<sup>k</sup>BENEDICTINE OR BLACK MONKS,<sup>1</sup> A.D. 969.

“ On the 12th day of November, A. D. 969, Ailwine, Earl of the East Angles, at the instance of Oswald, Archbishop of York, founded the Monastery of Ramsey,<sup>m</sup> and in the year following sent thither Ednote from Wigorne, who, having

<sup>k</sup> An Abbey was a religious society of men or women living together in an establishment, under the government of an Abbot or Abbess. Of these some were so considerable that the Abbots received summons to Parliament, and sat and voted in the House of Lords, and exercised episcopal powers within the limits of their houses, &c. Such was that of Ramsey; it was therefore called a mitred one.

<sup>1</sup> The most antient order of Monks is the Benedictine. It was so called from St. Benedict, a native of Nursia, in the dukedom of Spoleto, in Italy. He was born about the year 480, and died about 543. His rule was not confirmed until fifty-two years after his death, when it received the sanction of Pope Gregory the Great. The form and colour of their habits was at first left to the discretion of their Abbot, who varied them according to the season and climate, but subsequently it was ordained that they should wear a loose gown of black stuff reaching down to the heels, with a cowl or hood of the same, and a scapulary. Under this another habit of the same size, made of white flannel, and boots on their legs. From the colour of their outer habit they were generally called Black Monks.—*Grose*.

<sup>m</sup> Bishop Stillingfleet and others suppose the first English Monastery was founded at Glastonbury by St. Patrick, A. D. 425, whilst others doubt whether St. Patrick ever was at Glastonbury. About the year 512, British Historians report that St. Dubritius, Archbishop of St. David's, founded twelve monasteries, and taught his monks to live after the manner of the Asians and Africans, by the work of their hands. Camden thinks that Congellus

completed the chapel previously began, commenced the sacerdotal functions of a Monk.<sup>n</sup> In 972, the fourth year from the foundation, the aforesaid Oswald translated thither twelve Monks from Westbiri; and on the sixth ide (8th day) of November, A. D. 974, the holy Dunstan of Canterbury, and Oswald of York, consecrated the Church to the blessed Mary, all holy Virgins, and St. Benedict. After which foundation, both Earl Ailwine and the pious Oswald lived twenty-four years; and in the year 998 passed from this temporal life to an eternal one; the pious Oswald on the second calend (31st day) of March, and the aforesaid Earl on the eighth calend (25th day) of May.”<sup>o</sup>

first brought the monastic life into England, towards the year 530, but Tanner observes, that “it was certainly here before that time.” These contradictions prove that the exact period is unknown.—*Grose’s Antiq., Tanner’s Not. Mon., and Stillingfleet’s Orig. of Brit. Churches.*

<sup>n</sup> The difference between a Monk and a Friar is, that a Monk belonged to a Monastery endowed with lands for its support, and a Friar to one having no endowments but the mere gardens and immediate ground of the Monastery, the brethren chiefly subsisting on the alms of the people of the immediate neighbourhood.

<sup>o</sup> De fundatione Abbathie Ramesiensis. Ex Regist. de Ramsey in Scaccario, ex parte rememorator.

Anno Domini nongentesimo sexagesimo nono, Ailwinus, dux Orientalium Anglorum, instigante Oswaldo Eboracensi Archiepiscopo, fundavit monasterium Ramesiense, duodecimo die Novembris, et anno sequenti de Wigorina misit ibidem Ednotum, qui emendata capella quam invenit, fecit officinas monachorum, et quarto anno sequenti, videlicet anno nongentesimo septuagesimo secundo, misit Oswaldus prædictus ibidem duodecim monachos de Westbiri, et

The founder was variously called Ailwine, Aylwin, Ethelwine, and Egelwine ; and on the death of his brother Ethelwold, who was slain by Edgar with a dart when hunting, in a paroxysm of jealousy and passion, succeeded to the favour of that monarch, and was by him created Alderman of England<sup>p</sup> and Earl of the East Angles. His power and his possessions were immense : he liberally endowed many religious houses, and to the Abbey of Ramsey gave, in all, 200 hides of land. He was buried in the Abbey, and this epitaph was put upon his tomb :

“ Hic requiescit Ailwinus, inclyti regis Edgari cognatus, totius Angliæ Aldermannus, et hujus sacri cœnobii, miraculosé, fundator.”<sup>q</sup>

anno tertio sequente scilicet nongentisimo septuagesimo quarto, sanctus Dunstanus, Cantuariensis, et Oswaldus Eboracensis, sexto Idus Novembris, primam ecclesiam beate Mariæ et omnibus Sanctis virginibus et sancto Benedicto *consecrarunt*. Post cujus foundationem, tam dux Ailwinus, quam sanctus Oswaldus vixerunt viginti quatuor annos. Et Anno 998 de hac vita temporalis transierunt ad æternam ; scilicet sanctus Oswaldus secundo calendas Martii et dux prædictus octavo calendas Maii.—*Dugdale Mon. Ang.*

<sup>p</sup> Aldermen in the time of the Anglo-Saxons were governors of counties, and after the Danish times were frequently called earls. Comes in Latin—Alderman in Saxon—and Earl in Dano-Saxon, were synonymous, as appears by the Saxon Annals, by Alfred's Translation of Bede, and other antient Historians. Howendon says, that Alderman is in English what Senior is in Latin, and that those whom the Romans called Senators, the Saxons called Aldermen.

<sup>q</sup> Lelandi Collect. v. iii. p. 44.

His anniversary was registered for the 25th of May.<sup>r</sup>

From the foundation of the Abbey to the Reformation, it continued receiving accessions of territory, donations of jewels, and other valuables, until its annual rental amounted to £1716 12s. 4d. Dugdale, and £1987 15s. 3d. Speed. It was granted in the 31st Henry 8th to Sir Richard Cromwell, alias Williams, to be held *in capite* by Knights' service, for the comparatively trifling consideration of £4963 4s. 2d. To him succeeded the Golden Knight, Sir Henry, who rebuilt the Manor-house out of the ruins of the Abbey, and whose son, Sir Oliver, made it his principal residence. The next inheritor was his grandson, Henry Cromwell, Esq. who died suddenly, after a defeat at an election contest, without heirs male, when the estate descended to his sisters and co-heiresses, Carina and Elizabeth, from whom it was purchased by the celebrated Colonel Silas Titus, who in 1703 bequeathed it to his wife and two daughters. Catherine the eldest became sole survivor, and held the estate in her own right till 1732; when dying, she left it to two confidential servants, who sold it to Coulson Fellowes, Esq. in or about 1736, to whose grandson, William Henry Fellowes, Esq., the present possessor, it has descended by right of inheritance.

<sup>r</sup> "Octavo cal. Maii obiit Ailwinus comes, fundator Rame-siensis monasterii, qui dedit plurima ornamenta pretiosa et cœlidas terræ."

## HINCHINGBROOK NUNNERY\*

was situated about half a mile west of the town of Huntingdon, and commanded an extensive and delightful view of the rich valley watered by the river Ouse, the hills of Buckden and Buckworth, and beyond the former, part of the county of Bedford. It was a small Benedictine Priory, dedicated to St. James, and founded by William the Conqueror, for the reception of the Nuns of Eltesley in Cambridgeshire, on the suppression of their establishment at that place, where St. Pandonia, the Scottish virgin, was buried.<sup>†</sup> King William appears to have been

\* The date of the first foundation of nunneries, or houses for religious women in this country, is enveloped in obscurity. They are supposed to be nearly of equal antiquity with those for monks. Leland states that Merlin's mother, who is reported to have lived about the year 440, was a nun at Caermaerthen; and it is said St. David's mother was a nun. The first English nunnery is thought to have been erected at Folkstone, in Kent, by King Eadbald, A. D. 630; soon after which several others were founded, particularly that of Baring, in Essex, A. D. 675, and another by St. Mildred, in the Isle of Thanet, A. D. 694.—*Grose*.

† "It appearithe by the Legende of S. Pandonia that she was a Kynge of Scotts Dowghtar, and after fienge them that would have deflowrid hir, she cam to a kynnswoman of hers, priorese of a nunrey at Eltesley, in Cambridgeshire, 4 myles from Seint Neotes, and aftar dyenge was byried in Eltesley, by a Well cawled S. Pandonia Welle. She was translatyd into Eltesley church, anno, 1344, as it aperithe by the lessons of hir translation made by one Ser Richard, parishe priste there. Some say that the olde priory was by the vicarage."—*Leland's Itinerary*, vol. viii. part ii, p. 92.

a great favourer of the monastic order, from his speech on the point of death, as quoted by Speed : “ Seauenteene Monasteries of Monkes, and sixe of holy Nunnes haue been founded by myselfe and my nobility, whose carters I haue freely confirmed, and doe by princely authority confirme against all emulations and troubles : in them God is serued, and for his sake many poore people relieued.”— This establishment continued to flourish till the general dissolution of small religious houses in the 26th of Henry 8th, when there were only four nuns<sup>u</sup> remaining ; the amount of spiritual and temporal revenues, at its suppression, was £19. 9s. 2d. Speed, and £17. 1s. 4d. Dugdale. The last Prioress was Alice Wylton. The Priory and its appurtenances were granted 29th Henry 8th to Sir Richard Williams, alias Cromwell, and on its scite was erected the splendid country mansion of that chivalrous family, whose descendant, Sir Oliver, so far reduced the family property by the improvidence of a lavish hospitality and prodigal expenditure, that he sold the house and demesnes 20th of June, 1627, to Sir Sydney Montague, of Barnwell, Knt., the father of the 1st Earl of Sandwich, from whom it has descended to John William, the 7th Earl, whose country residence it now is.

<sup>u</sup> Their habit was a black robe and scapulary, under which was a tunic of white undyed wool; when they went to the choir they also wore a black cowl.

## HUNTINGDON PRIORY.

AUSTIN SEC. CANONS<sup>v</sup>—DEDICATED TO THE VIRGIN MARY.

The origin of this Priory is very obscure and must be of antient date, being alluded to in a charter to Thorney Abbey,<sup>w</sup> from King Edgar, in the year 973. It originally stood in the situation now occupied by St. Mary's Church, but in the reign of King Stephen, or Henry the 2d, was removed to a more retired and convenient site without the eastern boundaries of the present town, by Eustacius, Viscount or Sheriff of the county, who was surnamed Lovetot, from holding the barony of Lovetot in capite from the King. Eustace and the Empress Maude were liberal benefactors of this Priory; and by royal grants, papal confirmations, and private endowments, it continued gaining donations of land, appropriations of churches, and rising in wealth until the dissolution, when its annual reve-

<sup>v</sup> Canons were either regular or secular. The secular canons intermixed more with the laity than the regulars, and took upon them the cure of souls, which regulars could not do without a dispensation. They differed but little from ordinary priests, unless in this particular, that they were under the government of local statutes. In some instances, as at Huntingdon, they lived together in a conventual manner under one roof; but in others they lived separately, after the manner of modern prebends to cathedrals. Their dress was a long black cassoc, with a white rochet over it, and over that a black cloak and hood. These canons wore beards, and caps on their heads.

<sup>w</sup> Ex Reg. Abbat de Thorney, penes Comitum, Westmorland, An. 1638, fol. 1.

nues amounted to £187 13s. 8d. Dugdale, and £232 0s. 0d.ob. Speed. The lands and possessions of the Priory were distributed in several counties, and given by Henry 8th to various dependants. The site of the Priory, with its members and appurtenances, was granted in 1542, the 33d of Henry 8th, to Sir Richard Williams, alias Cromwell. In 1631 it was sold, with the residue of his paternal inheritance, by Oliver Cromwell, the future Protector, to Richard Oakley and Richard Owen, Esqrs., and by them conveyed, in 1651, to Hugh Williams and Griffith Bodurda, of Lincoln's Inn, of whom it was purchased by Edward Montague, Esq., in 1655, the 7th year of the Protectorate, and has from that period descended, as part of the Hinchbrook estate, to John William, the present Earl of Sandwich. The surrender of the Priory bears date June 11th, 1539, and is signed by Hugh Oliver, the last Prior, and eight Canons.

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Whether, from the ordinary dilapidations of time, or any accidental circumstances, does not appear ; but in the year 1623, under an order from the Diocesan, representing the ruinous and insecure state of the tower and steeple of Godmanchester Church, an estimate was made for their being taken down and wholly rebuilt. The computed expence being £800, arrangements were made for the collection of the money in the five following years: levies were accordingly ordered for the prosecution of the work,



and the houses, lands, sheep, and cows of the lordship assessed to a rate, the number of which, by a court entry of that date, was thus delivered in upon oath.

“ The number of acres of lands and leys given in towards the new building of the steeple, was 3629, at 4*d.* per acre ; meadow 468, at 12*d.* per acre ; tenements 195, rated at 3*s.* 6*d.* each ; half-tenements 83, rated at 20*d.* each ; sheep 2159, cows 640, at 1*d.* each.”

Subsequently the sheep and cows were omitted in the rate, and the lands and tenements only charged, as appears by the first levy, which is contained on a parchment roll of three skins. The first skin is headed—

“ GUMECESTER ALIAS GODMANCHESTER.

“ A levy made the xxviiijth day of May, 1623, for and towards the taking downe of the shattered and decayed steple and breach, and rebuilding againe the same, and repaire of the Church, to the honor of Almighty God and Christian religion, wich levy is rated and taxed after the rate of xij*d.* for every acre of meadowe, iiij*d.* for every acre of arable land, layes, and the severall inclosures and pightels about the towne, and about the tenements and homestalles, are rated after the rates that they are yearly letten, and such as have not used to be letten are rated as they are yearly worth proportionabl<sup>e</sup>, according as their neighbours are letten, and every vjs. yearly rent thereof is taxed and rated at iiij*d.* according to the rate of an acre of arable land. And every whole auntient tenem<sup>t</sup> or homestall, besides the grasinge or mowinge ground theronto adioyninge, is rated and taxed at iij*s.* iiij*d.*, and every divided tenem<sup>t</sup> or homestall, and newe erecōn is rated at xx*d.* And this proportion is to be holden

more or lesse, as necessitie shall require, untill the worke be finished.

“ And this first levy to be assessed and collected in manner following : viz. one 4th part to be paid presently, another 4th part at Michaelmas next, another 4th part at Christmas next, and the last 4th part at the annunciation of the most blessed Virgin Mary thence next ensewinge.”

Then follows a list of 114 names of resident householders, and the sum affixed to each at which they were respectively assessed, beginning with—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
“ John Goldesburgh, Esq.....	xj	viiij
Mr. Thomas Trice, sen.....	xlviij	—
&c. &c. &c.”		

On the second skin are contained 131 names ; and on the third, which is headed “ the forren tenants,” twelve names, among whom are those of—

	£.	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
“ The Lady Morley, gardian to her yongest sonne for his meadowes }	ix	j	x
Mrs. Cromwell.....	—	ij	—
&c. &c. &c.”			

The total sum assessed by the levy was £134.  
4*s.* 6*d.*

At this period the taxation of the kingdom principally consisted in benevolences and subsidies, which were in frequent demand from the people of England ; and three new subsidies having been granted to James, A.D. 1624, to make preparations for a contemplated war with Spain, the following Petition was presented by the townsmen of God-

manchester, urging their incapacity of payment from the extreme poverty of their town, and the taxation they were then subject to in re-building the steeple.

“HUNTS.—To the right Wo<sup>th</sup> his Magy Commissers for the taking of the first Subsidy of three entire Subsidies. Año xxj Jac. Regis.

“The Humble Petition of the Townsmen of Godmanchester.

“That wheras there are (not onely) sixteen of the best farmes in our towne decayed within these xx yeares last past, and the said farm-houses inhabited by cottagers, but also our steeple now being downe to the ground, the re-paire therof, by the computacōn of a very expert artisan and surveyor, will cost the parish £800, whereof £134 was last yeare assessed and paid, and £134 more is already taxed to be paid, and the rest likewise is to be done in three yeares more, by the appointment of our Diocesan. Our humble suit is, (the p̄misses considered) you will be pleased to accept of such taxaōn as we shall be able to pay to your subsidies, which, although it be lesse than hertofore we paid, yet we shall present our assessment at a higher rate than we are well able to pay. And we shall be bound to pray,” &c.

The Tower is of a square form and embattled, surmounted by an elegant and lofty Spire one hundred and fifty feet in height, which forms the most beautiful feature in the landscape from the surrounding country. It is entered by a Norman door-way, which is the more interesting from its antiquity, having been removed from the Monastery of Ram-

sey,\* without the addition of any modern work. Over this door-way is the fleur-de-lis, with the words “Burgu Gumecestre,” surmounted by the date of the erection, “1623.” By a flight of stone steps, in a neat turret at the south-east corner of the Tower, we arrive at the Belfrey, over which, in the Steeple, is an excellent and melodious set of eight bells,<sup>7</sup> cast from the metal of the old bells, by Thomas Downham of Norfolk, A.D. 1794. The old bells were five in number—

	cwt. qrs. lb.			
The 1st. containing.....	9	3	18	of metal.
2d. ....	11	3	7	
3d. ....	13	3	24	
4th. (Cast by a shepherd at the Angel Inn)	19	0	20	
5th. ....	29	2	20	
Total.....	84	2	5	

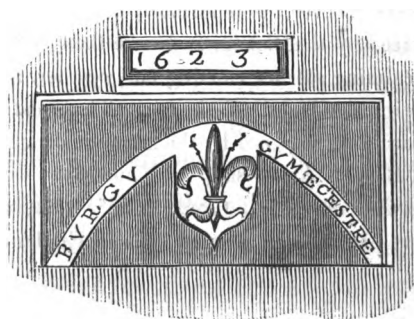
\* In the Churchwardens' account for re-building the Steeple are these items, (amongst the expences incurred at Ramsey Abbey,)—“To Tom Cowper for work in taking downe and loading the door, 10s.; to Foster, the mason, helping him seven daies, 7s.; to Cooke and Drage for thirteen daies helping him at 6*d.* per diem, 6*s.* 6*d.* in toto.”

<sup>7</sup> “Bells, (says Weever,) were formerly baptized, anointed, exorcised, and blessed by the Bishop, and were then imagined to have the power of calming storms, causing fair weather, re-creating the dead, and driving devils out of the air. The great bells of Lincoln and Oxford were baptized by the name of Thomas, in honour of Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury—and being of immense size they are called Great Tom.” Croyland Abbey is reputed to have had the first ring of bells in England; they were six in number.

They were taken down in the year 1794 and recast, at an expence of £120, which was defrayed by a liberal subscription. The new bells were opened on the 6th of May, 1795, by the Cambridge and Soham youths; and in 1797, the Soham youths farther celebrated their erection, by ringing upon them a peal of 5780 changes in three hours and a half.

The weight of the present bells and their inscriptions are as follow :—

	cwt.	qrs.	lb.
1st.—Thomas Osborn, Downham, fecit, 1794, Intactum Sillo. Percute Dulce Cano .....	6	3	7
2d.—T. Osborn, Founder, 1794 .....	7	0	16
3d.—T. Osborn, Founder, 1794 .....	7	1	5
4th.—T. Osborn, Fecit, { Our voices shall with joyfull sound, { Make hills and valleys echo round. } 1794	7	3	20
5th.—T. Osborn, Fecit, 1794 .....	9	3	14
6th.— .....	10	1	7
7th.—T. Osborn, Fecit, 1794 .....	14	3	16
8th.—Rev. Castle Sherard, Rector; J <sup>no</sup> Martin, Robert Waller, Bailiffs; John Scott, Richard Miles, Churchwardens; T. Osborn, Fecit, 1794	20	2	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	84	3	12



## CHAPTER XI.

## MISCELLANEOUS.



UCH has been said on the tenure or service by which the Manor of Godmanchester is held, and the probability suggested of its having been anciently that of the plough,<sup>a</sup> which was exchanged for a money rent by Edward the Confessor, or perhaps before his reign. This conclusion may be drawn from the circumstance of agriculture having always been the chief employment of the inhabitants; and by a custom which was continued to the reign of James 1st, of meeting the Kings of England, when on their royal progresses they passed through the manor, with ploughs and other implements of husbandry; the fact of which custom is confirmed by the concur-

<sup>a</sup> Vide p. 77—78.

rent testimony of Historians, and whose deduction might be founded upon tradition, that by "that custom they held their lands." In the "Progresses," processions, and magnificent festivities of King James the First," &c. is contained "the true narration<sup>c</sup> of the entertainment of his Royal Majestie, from the time of his departure from Edenbrough till his receiving at London ; with all, or the most speciall occurrences," which furnishes an interesting account of the King's progress through Godmanchester. King James left Hinchbrook 29th of April, A.D. 1603.—"Thence with regall thanks for his entertainment he departed to Roiston ; and as he passed through Godmanchester, a towne close by Huntingdon, the Bailiffes of the towne met him and acknowledged their alleageance. There convoying him through their towne, they presented him with three score and ten teeme of horse all traced, two faire new ploughs, in shew of their husbandrie ; which, while his Majestie being very well delighted with the sight, demanded why they offered him so many horses and ploughs ; he was resolved, that it was

<sup>b</sup> By John Nichols, F.S.A. Lond. Edinb. and Perth, 1828.

<sup>c</sup> "At London: printed by Thomas Creede for Thomas Milington, 1603."—At the sale of the library of Mr. Gough, in 1810, a copy of this scarce little Tract was sold to Mr. George Chalmers for £4 10s. In the sale of Mr. Garrick's Library, 1823, a copy of it, bound up with several other Tracts, sold for £53.

their aunciente custome, whensoever any King of England passed through their towne, so to present his Excellence. Besides, they added, that they held their lands by that tenure, being the King's tenants : his Majestie not only tooke well in worth their good mindes, but bad them use well their ploughs, being glad he was landlord of so many good husbandmen in one towne. I trust his Highnesse, when he knows well the wrong, will take order for those, as her Majestie<sup>d</sup> began, that turn plough-land to pastorage; and where many good husbandmen dwelt, there is now nothing left but a great house without fire; the Lord commonly at sojourne neere London, and for the husbandmen and ploughs he only maintaines a sheepeheard and his dog. But what do I do talking of sheepe, when I am to follow the gestes of a King? I will leave them and their wolvisch Lords, that have eaten up poor husbandmen like sheepe, and proceede where I left. His Majestie being past Godmanchester, held on his way towards Royston."

Sir Richard Baker, Knight,<sup>e</sup> the Chronicler of the Kings of England, describing James's progress

<sup>d</sup> Allusion is here made to the enactments of Elizabeth, regulating the extent and occupation of farms. In the 7th year of Edward 1st, A. D. 1278, (vide Appendix, No. 2,) 534 tenants were assessed to the fee-farm rent; in 1827, 422 tenants were assessed.

<sup>e</sup> Chronicle of the Kings of England, from the time of the Roman Government unto the death of King James.—Fol. London, 1665, p. 427.



from Hinchbrook, observes, “ from thence he rode towards Royston, and as he passed through Godmanchester, a town close by Huntingdon, the Bailiffs of the town presented him with seventy teem of horses, all traced to fair new ploughs ; at which the King wondering, they said it was their antient custom so to do when any King of England passed through their town, and by which, as being the King’s tenants, they held their land.” Sir Robert Cotton<sup>f</sup> says of Godmanchester, that “ it is seated by as fruitful and flowery meadows as any this kingdom yieldeth, and is the most spacious of any one parish in fertile tillage, oft’ having waited on the Sovereign Lords with nine score ploughs in a rural pomp.” Camden remarks, “ that there is no place in all England that has so many stout hinds, or employs more ploughs, for they make their boast of having formerly received the Kings of England in their progress this way with nine score ploughs, brought forth in a rustical kind of pomp for a gallant shew.”

The Charter of James recites, that Godmanchester “ is an antient and populous town, and the men and inhabitants of the said town are chiefly employed in agriculture, which is of the greatest importance to the commonwealth;” and by the provisions of the Charter, the horses, &c. of the inhabitants are specially exempted from the King’s

<sup>f</sup> Speed’s Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine.—Fol. 1676.

service. The *Averia Carucæ*, or beasts of the plough, have, according to Avoury,<sup>s</sup> been often thus privileged by law.

In 1633, Charles 1st made a journey into Scotland, attended by his Court, in order to hold a Parliament, and for the purpose of his Coronation, when, on passing through Godmanchester, the ce-

<sup>s</sup> "Agriculture or tillage is of great account in law, as being very profitable for the common wealth, wherein the goodnesse of the habit is best known by the privation; for by laying of lands used in tilth for pasture, six maine inconveniences do daily encrease. First, Idlenesse, which is the ground and begining of all mischiefs. 2d. Depopulation, and decay of townes; for where in some townes 200 persons were occupied, and lived by their lawful labors, by converting tillage into pasture, there have been maintained but two or three heardsmen; and where men have been accounted sheepe of God's pasture, now become sheep-men of these pastures. 3d. Husbandry, which is one of the greatest commodities of the realm, is decayed. 4th. Churches are destroyed, and the service of God neglected by diminution of church livings, (as by decay of tythes, &c.) 5th. Injury and wrong is done to patrons and God's ministers; and, 6th. The defence of the land against forraine enemies is enfeebled and impaired, the bodies of husbandmen being more strong and able, and patient of cold, heat, and hunger, than of any other.

"The two consequents that follow of these inconveniences, are, first, the displeasure of Almighty God; and, secondly, the subversion of the polity and good government of the realm; and all this appeareth in our bookes. And the common law giveth arable land (which antiently is called *hyde* and *gaine*.) the preheminency and precedency before meadows, pastures, woods, mynes, and all other grounds whatsoever; and *Averia Carucæ*, the beasts of the plough, have in some cases more priviledge than other cattell have."—*Avoury, Temp. E. 1.*

remony of meeting the King with a procession of ploughs was either discontinued or no record of the circumstance made ; but the inhabitants were taxed with a levy for the payment of a “guilt peece of plate” presented to the King, and fees due to his Majesty’s officers on their progress through the town, as allowed in the account of John Clarke, then Bailiff.<sup>b</sup>

In A. D. 1634, on the return of his Majesty from Scotland, a second levy<sup>1</sup> was made to present the

<sup>b</sup> “The account of the said Mr. Bailiff for money rec. upon a levie made for the p’senting the King’s Ma<sup>tie</sup> w<sup>th</sup> a peece of plate, and for Officers’ fees at his Progresse into Scotland, going through this Corporation the 15th day of May, 1633.

Imp<sup>a</sup> the said Bailiff accounteth to have rec. upon £ s. d.  
a levie then made..... 54 9 8½

And he accounteth to have payed to the

guilt peece of plate, and for the case, £ s. d.

and for bringinge it to London.....14 3 8

And he payed for Officers’ fees, as by

a receipt under ther hand .....38 3 4 } 52 7 0

Soe resteth in the said Mr. Bailiff’s hand.... £2 2 8½

<sup>1</sup> The Bailiffs of the Town } For Fees due to his Majesty’s  
of Godmanchester. } Servants for their homage to his  
Majesty the 15th day of July, 1634.

	£	s.	d.
To the Gentlemen Ushers—Daily Waiters .....	5	0	0
To the Gentlemen Ushers of the Privy Chamber ....	5	0	0
To the Sergeant at Arms.....	3	6	8
To the King’s Harbinger .....	3	6	8
To the King’s Marshal .....	1	0	0
To the Gentlemen Ushers—Quarter Waiters .....	1	0	0

“ Queen’s Mat<sup>ie</sup> w<sup>th</sup> a peece of plate,” and for Officers’ fees, as appears by the Receiver-General’s demand, and the account of Mr. Bailiff Tryce.<sup>k</sup>

The imposition of these fees (on the Progress of Charles through Godmanchester,) would now be considered arbitrary exactions. Royal progresses in the earlier periods of English History

	£	s.	d.
To the Sewers of the Chamber .....	1	0	0
To the Yeomen of the Wardrobe .....	1	6	8
To the Yeomen Ushers .....	1	0	0
To the Grooms of the Stoles .....	1	0	0
To the Footman .....	2	0	0
To the Yeomen for the Month .....	2	0	0
To the Porters of the Gate .....	1	0	0
To the Sergeant of the Trumpeters .....	1	0	0
To the Trumpeters .....	2	0	0
To the Surveyor of the Ways.....	1	0	0
To the Yeomen of the Fields.....	0	10	0
To the Door-keeper.....	0	10	0
To the Yeomen Harbingers .....	1	0	0
To the Foresters .....	0	0	0
<hr/>			
S <sup>m</sup> a Totis.....	£34	0	0

W<sup>L</sup>AM DELHICKE.

“ Rec<sup>d</sup> by me, Thomas Bartholemew, General-receiver for all his Majesty’s servants, for Bailiffs’ fees, all those several sums of money abovesaid, amounting to the sum of thirty-four pounds, in full discharge of all fees due to his Majesty’s servants from the Bailiffs abovesaid, this 17th of July, 1634, I say in full discharge.

“ THOS. BARTHOLEMW.”

<sup>k</sup> “ The account of Mr. Bailiff Tryce, upon his receipts, upon a levie made for p<sup>r</sup>sentinge the Queene’s Mat<sup>ie</sup> w<sup>th</sup> a peece of plate when the Kinge and Queene’s Mat<sup>ies</sup> went there p<sup>r</sup>gresse

through this Corporation, the 15th daye of July, Anno Domini 1634, and for discharge of Officers' fees.

And he hath disbursed for a peece of  
guilt plate p'sented to the Queene,  
and for charges in bringinge it from

**Ballance..... £5 16 1**

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redress; it was therefore made public by the King's command, that whoever, belonging to the Court, spoiled any goods of those who entertained them in their progresses, or abused the persons of their hosts, should, on proof, have their eyes put out, or their hands and feet cut off." Royal progresses were formerly so common, and the cost of them so serious a grievance to the public, that the people generally petitioned against their frequent occurrence.

The chief employment of the inhabitants of Godmanchester continues to be agriculture, but many private families are resident in the town, who are supplied with the necessaries and conveniences of life by a flourishing retail trade. It is well situated for the principal markets of the county, being immediately contiguous to Huntingdon, five miles from St. Ives, and eight miles from St. Neots, to both which places the navigation extends; and being on the great communication between London and the northern parts of the kingdom, coaches at various hours of the day pass through the town, which is farther accommodated with several vans and waggons. The houses are well built, and having gardens attached to them, occupy a considerable extent of ground; they are airy, and the inhabitants healthy,<sup>m</sup> who attain, in many instances, a very advanced age.

<sup>m</sup> By a Court entry it appears that in 1593 the plague visited Godmanchester.—“ xvij die Decembris 1593, M<sup>d</sup>. y<sup>t</sup> uppon the daie and yeare above written all thes men, whos names are next under written, for y<sup>t</sup> thew would not paie thos somes of monye

By the Censuses, A.D. 1801, and A.D. 1831,<sup>n</sup> the parish contained—

A D.	HOUSES.			PERSONS.		OCCUPATIONS.		Other Persons not included.	Total.
	Inhabited	By how many Families.	Uninhabited.	Males.	Females.	Chiefly in Agriculture.	Trade, Manufacture, or Handicraft.		
1801	337	378	10	751	822	159	202	1172	1573
1831	475	474	23	1070	1076	151	207	116	2146

A.D. 1831, to queries upon other points, it was answered, as follows :

Number of males 20 years old .....	499	Males employed in trade, &c. ....	193
Occupiers of land employing labourers .....	15	Wholesale merchants, capitalists, bankers, professional persons, and other educated men ..	15
Ditto not employing labourers .....	19	Labourers employed in the three preceding classes and in other labour not agricultural.....	35
Male servants upwards of 20 years old .....	14	Other males 20 years old, not included in the above and not being servants..	31
Ditto under 20 years old .....	28		
Female servants .....	77		
Labourers employed in agriculture .....	177		

w<sup>ch</sup> thew and everye of them were taxed at toward y<sup>e</sup> paiement of £vj levied bye the Bailliffs and xij men, w<sup>th</sup> the consent of y<sup>e</sup> most p<sup>r</sup>te of the chiefest of y<sup>e</sup> inhabitaunts, to be paiied to one Willyman, w<sup>ch</sup> did untartark to be painfull and carfull abowt y<sup>e</sup> people infected w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> plague w<sup>th</sup>in this townne ware dismissed of their liberties and fraunchises w<sup>ch</sup> thew have in this townne and manr." In the Parish Register of 1605 there are 35 burials, marked as of victims to this dreadful scourge of the human race.

<sup>n</sup> By the Census of 1811 the number of inhabitants was 1779; by that of 1821, 1953.

The poor rates in Godmanchester have gradually increased from their first institution, 43d of Eliz. and now amount to a sum incredibly large, if compared with levies of an earlier date; to shew which progressive increase the following extracts from the parish accounts and other sources are subjoined:—

“ AN ACCOUNT OF EXPENCES FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE POOR  
OF GODMANCHESTER, A.D. 1630—6TH OF CHARLES 1ST.

Thomas Tryce, Samuel Pont, Henry Stevenson, Thomas Maile, } <i>Overseers.</i>							
<i>Disbursements.</i>	£.	s.	d.	<i>Receipts.</i>	£.	s.	d.
Weekly payment to the poor for the year ...	12	13	9	Cash of the last Overseers ..	0	6	5½
Payments to do. during illness .....	18	0	3	Ditto for sundry arrears .....	0	18	3½
Payments to the Clerk of the Peace by order of the Justices, for 22 pairs of indentures for the binding poor children apprentice, at 15d. per pair ....	1	7	6	Ditto being the amount of poor's rate for the year ....	21	6	1
To divers poor not re- ceiving weekly col- lection, in time of sickness, and for nurses; and for war- rants of distraint for rates in arrear; cash paid Justices' Clerk & the Bailiffs of God- manchester, in giving up the yearly account	8	12	1	Balance due to the Overseers	3	17	8½
	£26	8	7		£26	8	7

N.B. The number of inhabitants at the last census was 1950.”



Expenditure for the year ending Easter, 1776, as returned to parliament under 16th Geo. III. c. 40	£.	s.	d.
	378	2	11
Medium average of money annually raised by assessments according to the return made under 16th Geo. III. c. 40 .....	398	11	10
Medium average of annual expenditure on account of the years ending Easter, 1783, 4, and 5, as returned to parliament under 26th Geo. III. c. 56	437	12	6
Ditto assessments for the same years in the same return.....	526	9	9
Expenditure in maintenance of the poor, 1790...	716	3	1
Ditto for the year ending Easter ..... 1800...	1154	14	5½
Total expenditure for the poor ..... 1803...	1000	6	4½
Total money raised by the poor rates and other rates within the year ending Easter, 1803, being 4s. in the pound .....	1032	19	6½

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RETURN TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, 7TH OF GEO. IV.

A. D. 1826.

1st. Money levied by assessment on land occupied for agricultural purposes, including nurseries and gardens cultivated for profit, also money levied by assessment on tithes .....	£1371	17	1½
2d. Do. by do. on dwelling-houses and out-houses thereunto attached, &c. ....	397	10	0
3d. Do. by do. on buildings for mills, warehouses, &c. ....	20	0	2
4th. Do. by do. on canals, navigations, &c. ....	60	10	0
Total money levied by assessment for the poor's rate and county rate .....	£1849	17	3½

RETURN MADE TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS,  
NOV. A.D. 1827.

*Overseers' Return.*

	£.	s.	d.
Amount levied on lands	1456	6	7
Do. on houses and lands	494	15	5
	—————	1951	2 0

*Churchwardens' Return.*

Amount levied on lands	69	6	0
Do. on houses and lands	34	13	0
	—————	103	19 0

*Surveyors' of the Highways Return.*

Amount levied on lands	132	19	0
Do. on houses and lands	30	10	6
	—————	163	9 6

Total amount levied for the year ..... 2218 10 6

Poor rates for the year ending Lady-

day, 1830 .....	2016	7	0
Other rates, as Highway rates ....	42	19	4½
————— Church do. &c. ....	51	13	4½

Total levied by assessment, 1830 ..... 2110 19 9

Poor rates for the year ending Lady-

day, 1831 . ....	1954	18	11
Other rates, as Highway rates ....	42	19	4½
————— Church rates, &c. ...	33	4	1½

Total levied by assessment, 1831.....£2031 2 5

## CHARITIES.

The charitable foundations in Godmanchester have been numerous, and would, had they been properly preserved and applied, have amounted to a considerable annual distribution of alms and other benefits to the poor. Many on record are now entirely lost, and of the principal one that remains, the Free Grammar School, the endowment has been so frittered away, that the institution is but of comparatively little benefit to the town. We shall notice these charities in the chronological order of their foundations, distinguishing those that are still available to the intentions of the donors.

## RECTORIAL CORN DISTRIBUTED ON GOOD-FRIDAY.

By an inquest held at Sleaford, in the diocese of Lincoln, A.D. 1440, it was presented, on the part of the men of Godmanchester, that the Prior and Convent of Merton received the tenths and other profits of the church, which they appropriated to their own use, withholding the antient customary distribution of alms to the poor : which allegation, on the part of the Prior and Convent, was denied : nevertheless it was ultimately arranged between the parties, that the Prior and Convent should annually, during Lent, on the first day of every week, deliver three quarters of wheat, three quarters of rye, and one quarter of barley, to the Vicar and Bailiffs for the time being, to be distri-

buted amongst the most needy parishioners ; this, at some subsequent period, has been reduced to three quarters of wheat and four quarters of barley, which is annually divided amongst the poor on Good-Friday by the Vicar and Bailiffs, and given away at the Rectory Barn.

“ To the faithful of the Holy Mother Church, to whom these presents shall come.º

“ William, by divine permission Bishop of Lincoln, sends greetings in the Lord eternal and a perpetual record to this effect :—Whereas lately in our archdeaconry of Huntingdon we have visited the churches, clergy, and people of the same, according to our custom, to whom previous notice by Inquisition had been given, when it was alleged that the Prior and Convent of the Priory of Merton, of the order of Saint Augustin, holds the parish church of Gumecester, in our said diocese and archdeaconry, to their own use, and that they receive the tenths and altarge of the said church, and that they have not for many years distributed, nor now distribute, any of the fruits of the said church in alms to the poor parishioners of the said church. We therefore commanded the said Prior and Convent to appear before us, on pain of——. And the Prior and Convent appeared before our well-beloved son in the Lord, Master John Derby, our Commissioner, in the parish church of Sleaford, in our said diocese, by Brother William West, Canon of the said Priory, appointed on behalf of the Prior and Convent ; and the parishioners of the said parish church of Gumecestr’ afore-said appeared by Sir Thos. Baker, in like manner appointed by the said parishioners, duly and properly authorized, on

º Vide Appendix, No. 10.

the fifteenth day of March last past, and were deliberately heard in judgement. On the part of the aforesaid Parishioners, against the said Prior and Convent, it was presented, that the said Prior and Convent had not for many years distributed any part, as is above recited, of the fruits of the said church of Godmanchester aforesaid, amongst the poor parishioners of the said church, who every year, on every Wednesday and Friday, according to antient custom, were used and accustomed to distribute amongst the most needy poor parishioners of the said church of Godmanchester three measures of grain, that is to say, one measure of wheat, one measure of rye, and one measure of peas. To which, on the part of the said Prior and Convent, it was answered, that the statement on the part of the parishioners was untrue: yet on their part, after due deliberation and to effect an amicable arrangement in the distribution of alms, it was thus determined, agreed, and settled before our said Commissioner, Master John Derby, then sitting in judgment on the said complaint, that the stewards of the household of the Priory of Merton aforesaid, or those who, for the time being, were deputed in the said church, should on the first day of every week during Lent, for ever in future, deliver, or cause to be delivered to the Vicar and Bailiffs of the town of Gumecestr' aforesaid, for the time being, in the name of the said Prior and Convent, of the fruits of the said church in alms, three quarters of pure wheat, three quarters of rye, and one quarter of pure barley, to be distributed at the discretion of the Vicar and Bailiffs amongst the poor parishioners of the said town.

“Which to be faithfully discharged and observed on the part of the Prior and Convent of Merton aforesaid, the said William West, in the name of the said parties, swore, by the blessing of God, on the book of the Holy Evangelists, a corporal oath.

“Whereupon the said Master John Derby, with the consent and at the instance of the aforesaid Parishioners and the Prior and Convent of Merton aforesaid, decreed in writing this form and regulation touching and concerning the said alms; in testimony of the ratification of which, the said parties affixed their seals.

“Given in our Convocation at ———, under our seal, this twenty-seventh day of January, one thousand four hundred and forty-three.”

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SEWSTER'S CHARITY.

“A.D. 1551.—In testam<sup>to</sup> Nich<sup>i</sup> Sewster nuper de Godmanchester in Com. Hunt. def' in Cur' Pre-roгат' Cant. remanen' sic continetur inter alia ut sequitur.

“In the name of God, Amen,—I, Nicholas Sewster, of Godmanchester, in the countie of Hunt., Esquire, and in the diocese of Lincoln, the 29<sup>th</sup> daie of Decembre, in the fiveth yeare of the raigne of Kinge Edward the Sixt, and in the yeare of oure Lorde God a thousand fyve hundrethe fyftie and one, being of whole and p'fect memorie and minde, thanks be to Almighty God, do make, constitute, and ordaine, this my last Will and Testament, &c. Also to the Clerke of the poore of Godmanchestr', fourtie shillings, at the discretion of the Bailys and xij men, to be lente to the poore yearlie as other monneyys. Also to the pore men's box at Godmanchester, xxs., &c. Also I will, that Will<sup>m</sup> Frior, my ten<sup>ante</sup>, shall have his dwellinge yn my ten<sup>antrie</sup> during his lyffe

ffrelie, paing no rente. And that my executors bestow, immediatlie after my decease, xxs. uppon the reparacions of yt, or w<sup>h</sup>in xij monethes after; and after the decease of the saide Will<sup>m</sup>, yt to remaine to be an almes-house for ev<sup>r</sup> at the dyscretion of the Bailies and Vicer then beinge," &c.

The tenement is situated in Earning Street,<sup>p</sup> and continues to be occupied as an alms-house.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH'S FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

A.D. 1558.

The circumstances connected with the foundation of this School have long been involved in mystery, and the appropriation of the endowment to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, with the exception of a rent-charge of £20 per annum, appearing so utterly opposed to all equity and reason, has been a constant source of irritation and dissatisfaction to the townsmen at large; in order to allay that irritation, and put the question of recovery of the school estates at rest, we shall enter somewhat into detail respecting the original foundation, and its present application.

On the 24th of April, 1558,<sup>q</sup> (4th and 5th Philip

<sup>p</sup> *Erningestrete*, Ermin Street, or Herming Street (vide p. 6) from Hermes, (Mercury,) to whom that antient British track-way was consecrated.

<sup>q</sup> There is a memorandum in a Stock Book, (4th and 5th of Philip and Mary,) which refers to a former surrender of Robins on the 18th of April. "M<sup>d</sup> y<sup>t</sup> Richard Robyns lyeing syck, surrendered into y<sup>e</sup> Bylyffs hands all his lands and tenements w<sup>h</sup>in this lordship."

and Mary), one Richard Robins surrendered his estates in Godmanchester, according to the custom of the manor, into the hands of Thomas Wiseman and Roger Bush, then Bailiffs, to the use and for the foundation of a Free Grammar School in Godmanchester;<sup>q</sup> after which surrender, being dangerously ill, on the 20th of September, 1558, he made and published a Will, wherein he bequeathed his said estates in trust to executors and overseers, appointing that so much of them should be sold as would purchase land of the annual rent or value of £20. a year, with which a School was to be endowed in Godmanchester, under the supervision of such College as Thomas, then Bishop of Lincoln, should appoint, and that the residue of his estates should be equally divided amongst his surviving children.<sup>r</sup>

1. Agnes, the elder,  
who married  
Thomas Tryce.<sup>s</sup>

2. Dorothy, who  
married  
William Scott.

3. Agnes, the younger,  
who married  
Henry Stocker.

4th. Elizabeth, who  
married  
Gilbert Smith.

Eight or nine days subsequent to making this

<sup>q</sup> Vide Court Rolls of the Borough.

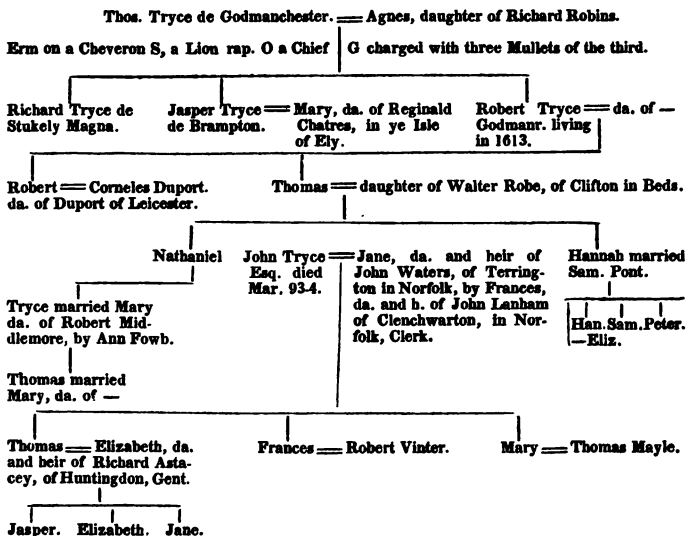
<sup>r</sup> Vide Pleadings in the Star Chamber.

<sup>s</sup> In "a volume of Collections, heraldic and topographical, for the county of Huntingdon, in the hand-writing of Sir Robert Cotton, with some interleaved additions by Mr. Astrý," we find

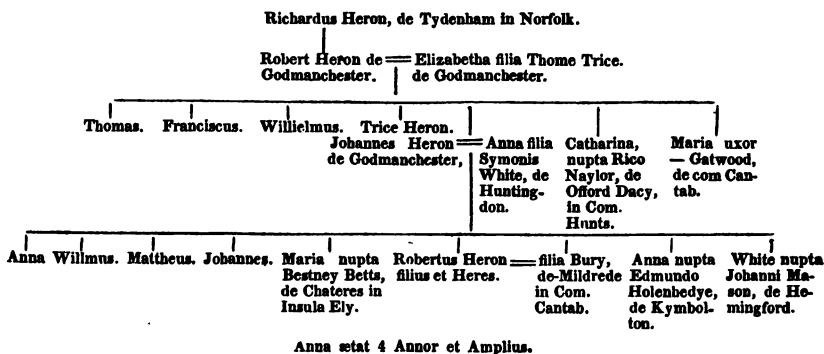


Will, Robins died ; upon whose death<sup>t</sup> Thomas Tryce, William Scott, Henry Stocker, and Gilbert

this genealogy or descent from Richard Robins, the founder of the Free School.—*Brit. Mus. Cotton Col.* v. 921.



<sup>t</sup> Robert, son of Richard Heron, of Tydenham, in Norfolk, whose descent is noticed in pp.165 and 166 of this work, married Elizabeth, daughter of this Thomas Trice ; and in the Visitation of Hunts, 1613, Cotton M.S. their descendants are thus traced :



Smith, in right of their respective wives, as joint heirs of Robins under the will, took possession of the estates. The Bailiffs, on behalf of the whole town, claimed the entire property for the endowment of a Free Grammar School, Robins having incapacitated himself from bequeathing the property by will, in the absolute surrender of the 24th of April. Henry Stocker and Agnes his wife, Gilbert Smith and Elizabeth his wife, unwilling to contend the issue at law, on February 28th, 1559, surrendered into the hands of the Bailiffs their right and title to their respective fourth parts, under their father's will, to the use of a Free Grammar School," agreeably to the surrender of Robins.

On the 10th of May, 1561, (3d of Elizabeth,) letters patent passed the Great Seal for the foundation of the School, appointing William Samuel, then Vicar, and others therein named, "Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, in Godmanchester," and "that they and their successors might have, receive, and purchase to them and their successors, to the maintenance and sustentation of the said Free School, manors, lands, tenements, &c. to the yearly value of £33. 6s. 8d. or under."

The Governors of the School, thus created by charter, entered upon the estates of Robins, and

<sup>u</sup> Vide Court Rolls.

by ejectment dispossessed Trice and Scott, and demised the houses and lands for a term of years, at an annual rent of £20, which yearly rent they appropriated to the purposes of the School.

Thos. Trice had by Agnes his	=	William Scott and Dorothy his
wife three children,		wife had several sons,
viz.		the youngest of which was
1st Richard, 2d Jasper,		Robert.
3d Robert.		

On the death of Thomas and Agnes Trice, and William and Dorothy Scott, Robert Scott and Robert Trice, their youngest sons, and heirs by the custom of Godmanchester, and Henry Stocker and Agnes his wife, and Gilbert Smith and Elizabeth his wife, as joint heirs of Richard Robins, sued, by writ of right close, for the recovery of the property, on which, at a view of frank pledge held in Godmanchester on the 17th of April, 1576, (18th of Elizabeth,) the Governors were admitted to the seisin of the estates, and proper entries and registers, in the Court Book<sup>v</sup> and Court Rolls, of their now vested right duly made.

In 1580, the heirs generally of Robins commenced a Star Chamber suit against the Governors, on a plea that the absolute surrender of Robins, in 1558, was a forgery; the surrender of Stocker and Smith and their wives informal; and that the will of Robins had not been complied

<sup>v</sup> Vide Court Rolls and Court Book No. 3, p. 118, where there is also a specification of the property.

with, by the sale of any part of his estates and the purchase of other lands; or in the charity having been placed under the supervision of any College, as directed by his will. After various answers and replies, their contentions were closed by a decree of the Court in Trinity Term, 1583, which barred all claim on the part of Stocker and Smith and their heirs, in consequence of their respective surrenders, but referred those of Scott and Trice to a jury, which ultimately negatived them; and which decree farther directed, that as it appeared by the will of Robins to have been his intention, the school estates should thereafter be vested in some College in Cambridge, with the reservation of an annual rent-charge of £20, to be applied by the Governors to the maintenance of the school.

In 1586 the decree was carried into full effect. The Governors of the school surrendered the estates of Robins into the hands of the Bailiffs, at a Court held on the 3d of June, to the use of Sir Walter Mildmay, Bart. then Chancellor, who, at the next Court, held on the 24th of June, was, by John Alred his Attorney, admitted to the seisin of them. At the same Court, Sir W. Mildmay, by Attorney, surrendered the estates into the hands of the Bailiffs for the use of the Master, Fellows, and Scholars of Emmanuel College, Cambridge,\* who,

\* Sir W. Mildmay, Bart., Chancellor and one of the Privy Council of Queen Elizabeth, founded Emmanuel College, Cambridge, A.D. 1584.

by Attorney, at a Court held on the 27th of August, took seisin of them, Sir W. Mildmay having previously (on the 20th of July), by deeds indented, secured to the Governors in trust for the use of the school, two annuities or annual rent-charges out of the estates, one of £13 6s. 8d. the other of £6 13s. 4d., making together the sum of £20, which continues to be paid from the funds of Emmanuel College to the Master of the school.

The school estates are now held under lease of the College, by Henry Sweeting, Esq. of Huntingdon, and are in the occupation of Mr. Lancaster, and commonly known by the name of the College lands.

The School-House is in part occupied as a residence for the Master, and is a handsome substantial building; but from the deficiency of funds for its repairs, is in a dilapidated state. Over the original entrance to the school, (which was formerly a neat corridor, but which is now converted into a sitting room for the Master,) under a geometrical sun-dial, is this inscription :

Eliz. Reg. Hujus  
Scholæ Fundatrix.

The school-room is lofty; 45 feet in length, and 20 feet in breadth within; 50 feet in length and 24 feet in breadth without the walls. The present school-master is Mr. RICHARD GAUNT; 60 boys are educated upon the foundation, in

reading, writing, and arithmetic, the Master's salary being increased from £20 to £40 a year, by an annual donation of £20 presented by Henry Sweeting, Esq., the Recorder of the borough.

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A.D. 1560. — LEGACIES AND DONATIONS PAID TO  
THE TWELVE MEN TO BE LENT TO THE POOR.

£. s. d.

Mem.—THAT ONE ARMEBOROWE did give  
to be delivered into the hands of the  
twelve men of the town of Godman-  
chester, twenty shillings, to be lent  
yearly to the poor people of the same  
town, they putting in sufficient securi-  
ties unto the said twelve men for re-  
paying the same ..... 1 0 0

Also ALICE WEST did give for the same  
intent and purpose ..... 4 0 0

Also RICHARD ROBINS did give likewise. 4 0 0

Also JOHN BULLYN did give for the same  
intent and purpose ..... 2 0 0

Mem.—That John Godwin and Richard Newman,  
Executors to the last will and testament of the  
above <sup>s<sup>d</sup></sup> John Bullyn, have paid and did deliver  
the afores<sup>d</sup> £2 0s. 0d. unto the twelve men of God<sup>r</sup>  
on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 1560.

Also THOS. UPCHURCH did give and be-  
queath, likewise to be lent to the poor,  
as is before expressed ..... 2 0 0

Also Mr. NICHOLAS SEWSTER did give and  
bequeath, to be lent as aforesaid. .... 2 0 0

Also Mr. JOHN NICHOLLS did give and	£.	s.	d.
bequeath, to be lent as aforesaid . . . . .	1	0	0
Also Mr. ROBERT HEARNE did give and			
bequeath, to be lent as aforesaid . . . . .	6	13	4
Also HENRY CARELESS did give to be			
lent as aforesaid to the poor . . . . .	0	10	0
Also Mr. ROB <sup>r</sup> . TRYCE did give to be lent			
as aforesaid . . . . .	3	6	8
Total to be lent to the Poor. . . . .	£26	10	0

This Charity is now lost. .

#### UPCHURCH'S CHARITY, A.D. 1570—NOW LOST.

Thomas Upchurch, by will dated December 4, 1570, bequeathed to John Upchurch, his nephew, his messuage with the appurtenances, situated in West Street, and certain lands, leys, and meadows thereto belonging, with this provision—

“Also I will that the said John Upchurch and his heirs male, and whosoever of his heirs shall have and enjoy the said messuage and other the aforesaid premises, shall every year distribute for ever, on the 1st of March, to the poor of Godmanchester, one quarter of good malt and one quarter of good barley, in the presence of the Bailiffs for the time being, or their deputy or deputies.”

In 1662, August 12th, (14th Charles 2d,) the messuage and lands having been sold by Robert Upchurch, in small allotments, to various persons, as appears by a terrier in the Court-book of that date, it was arranged that a money rent should be

paid by them for their respective proportions. These rents being withheld, the parties were presented by a Jury before "the Commissioners appointed for Charitable Uses," who issued a decree,<sup>\*</sup> dated January 15th, 1678, commanding the payment of the arrears then due, and the future distribution of the charity in malt and barley, but which has been long discontinued.

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THOMAS EAST'S CHARITY OF BARLEY.

The house of John Maule, Esq. situate in West Street, was charged by Thomas East with a quarter of barley, to be annually distributed amongst the poor, on the 1st of March, with Upchurch's charity. This alms-corn is now refused, on the plea that Upchurch's grain is no longer given away. It was last paid about the year 1810 by Richard Miles, then tenant.

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STEWKLEY'S CHARITY.

Margaret Stewkley by her will charged a house, situate near St. Anne's Lane, (in 1831 the property of the late Mr. Robert Martin,) with bread to the poor of Godmanchester, on Good Friday, in every year, to the value of 3*s.* 4*d.*

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CHAMBERS'S CHARITY.

Henry Chambers left a rent-charge of 3*s.* 4*d.* upon his house, the White Horse, to the poor yearly. The house was situated near the mills, and re-built by Henry Dobson, and is now the pro-

<sup>\*</sup> Vide decree amongst the Corporation Records.



perty of Mr. Edward Laundry ; the rent charge has for some years been discontinued.

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#### FISHBORN'S<sup>y</sup> CHARITIES.

Richard Fishborn charged his estate at Hartford with ten shillings yearly, viz. four half-crowns to be given to the Bailiffs of Godmanchester, for four poor widows of Godmanchester not receiving parochial relief. The estate is now the property

<sup>y</sup> The benevolent Richard Fishborn, founder of the Evening Sunday Lecture at Huntingdon, believed himself a native of that place, as appears by this extract from his will, "Whereas I am desirous to do good unto the town of Huntingdon where I was born, and yet am not acquainted with the state and wants of the same town," &c.; but a general and plausible tradition prevails that he was born within the parish of Godmanchester. "His parents were tramps or travelling paupers, and his mother being big with child and near her time, was sent from Huntingdon here, least the offspring should become chargeable to the town; that by the way she fell in labour, and was delivered of a son, who was baptized Richard." This legend is borne out by the universal custom of urging paupers on their journey from one parish to another; added to the circumstance of Godmanchester parish commencing in the centre of the bridge over the Ouse, which divides the two manors: it is certain that he was baptized in our church; and that no record of a baptism of the same name is to be found in any of the parishes of Huntingdon. "RIC'US FISHBORN FFILIUS JOH'IS FISHBORN BAPTIZAT FUIT 17 DIE JANUARIJ, ANNO D'MI, 1562." Fishborn might very readily fall into an error with respect to the place of his nativity, as, from his entire ignorance of "its state and wants," and his humble birth, it is probable that he never visited it after infancy. According to Fuller, he was, early in life, servant to Sir Baptist Hicks, (Viscount Camden); subsequently a merchant in the city of London, and a member of the

and in the occupation of Mr. Leonard Waller, by whom the rent-charge is paid.

Fishborn also gave money to purchase land for apprenticing poor boys of Godmanchester, which, in 1724, produced £2 a year. An equivalent of land at the time of the inclosure was allotted to the Corporation, the rent of which continues to be properly applied.

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ROBERT GRANGER'S CHARITY OF CORN IN BREAD,  
ANNUALLY DISTRIBUTED ON GOOD-FRIDAY.

A.D. 1578.—“ Robert Granger did, by his last will and testament bearing date 10th October, 1578, will, that after his decease, on the Good-Friday before Easter-day, there shall be given yearly to the poor in Godmanchester, as much bread as may be made of a comb of wheat; and that his daughter Ann should find it, and bake it into half-penny loaves against the day of distributing thereof. The distribution to be made by her and the two Churchwardens in Godmanchester during her abiding in the mansion-house, and after her departure the house to be charged with it for ever; and if they which dwell therein refuse to pay the comb of wheat baked into bread, that then it shall be lawful for the Churchwardens to distrain in the said house and grounds for the aforesaid comb of wheat.”

Mercer's Company. By successful speculations, he amassed so considerable a property, that he left £10,700 in charitable donations. He died unmarried, and was buried in Mercer's chapel, London, May 10th, 1625.—*Lansdown M.S. British Museum.*

The house, which is now divided into two tenements, is situated in East-street, and is the property of Edward Martin, Esq. who annually pays to the Churchwardens the value of a comb of wheat, which is distributed amongst the poor on Good-Friday.

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DRYDEN'S CHARITY—A.D. 1703.

John Dryden, Esq. of Chesterton, Hunts, A.D. 1703, lent to the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty of Godmanchester, £100, for the purpose of apprenticing annually a poor freeman's son with a premium of £5, they being bound in a bond to that effect, which contains this provision.

“The condition of the obligation is such, that if the above-bound Bailiffs, Assistants, and Com̄alty of the borough of Gumecester, alias Godmanchester, in the county of Huntingdon, do yearly, after the date hereof, put out *one poor freeman's child*, of the boro' afores<sup>d</sup>, apprentice to any trade that shall be by them thought convenient, paying £5 to the master of every such apprentice, until such time as the s<sup>d</sup> Bailiffs, Assist<sup>ts</sup>, and Cōialty, or their successors, purchase lands or tenements in the county of Huntingdon, of the value of £5 per annum, and settle the same on such trustees as the above-named John Dryden shall, by any writing under his hand and seal, nominate and appoint; and for want of such nomination, then on such person or persons as the Bailiffs and Assist<sup>ts</sup> shall appoint, that the rents, issues, and profits thereof may yearly for ever be paid unto the Bailiffs for the time being, and be by them yearly paid for the putting out apprentice

*one poor freeman's child* as aforesaid, by the <sup>s<sup>d</sup></sup> Bailiffs, Assist<sup>ts</sup>, and Cōialty, and for no other use, intent, or purpose whatsoever, that then this obligation to be void, or else to be and remain in full force & effect."—Date Febr 12<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>o</sup> Anne Reg.

Dryden died in January, 1707, as recorded on his monument in Chesterton church, up to which period no investment of the money in land had taken place.—By Will he converted the loan into a gift, increasing the amount to £200, by this item:

"I give unto (the town of Huntingdon £200, to the town of St. Ives £200,) to Godmanchester £200, (and to Ramsey £200,) to be disposed of to such charitable uses as the Justices of the Peace of the county of Huntingdon, together with the most substantial inhabitants in the several towns, shall think most convenient for the advantage of each town."

In 1708 the £200 was appropriated, with the consent of the Magistrates,<sup>z</sup> to the purchasing of 21 acres and 1½ rood of arable land, two acres of leys and two acres of meadow, in Godmanchester lordship, of John Raby and Ann his wife, which was vested in the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty for the purposes of Dryden's will. From this period

\* "And whereas John Driden, late of Chesterton, in the county of Huntingdon, deceased, in his life-time, by his will in writing, amongst other legacies and devises did give and bequeath to the town of Godmanchester the sume of £200, to be disposed of to such charitable uses within the <sup>s<sup>d</sup></sup> town as the Justices of the Peace of the county of Hunt: together with the most substantial inh'tants of the <sup>s<sup>d</sup></sup> town should think most convenient for the benefit of the <sup>s<sup>d</sup></sup> town; and whereas the most substantial inh'tants of the town did p'pose to the Justices of the Peace for the <sup>s<sup>d</sup></sup>

to the year 1723, the rents and profits of the land were given to apprenticing poor children, when it was deemed advisable to build four alms-houses upon Dryden's foundation, and leave a permanent eleemosynary charge of £5 a year upon the land, in accordance with the original stipulation between the Corporation and Dryden, which sum is annually applied to putting out apprentice a poor freeman's child.

Four alms-houses, at the south end of which is this inscription,

“ These Houses was built by order of the  
Bailiffs and their Assistants, with charity Money  
given by John Drayden, Esq. who  
was Knight of the Shire for this County  
of Huntingdon many years. 1723.  
Mr. ROBERT STOCKER,  
Mr. JOHN SKEGGS,  
Bailiffs.”

were built in Church Lane by the Bailiffs in 1723, in whose accounts of that year occur these charges for their erection:—

“ 1723, moneys pd by Mr. Bailiffe Negus towards building the almes-house in Church Lane—

county, that the s<sup>d</sup> £200 should be layed out for the p<sup>h</sup>asing of lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and that the same should be vested in the Bayliffs, Assistants, and Com<sup>al</sup>ty in trust, and that the rents, issues and p<sup>h</sup>its thereof yearly ariseing should be layed out for the putting out such of the poor children of the s<sup>d</sup> town apprentices in such manner as the Bayliffs, Assistants, and Vicar of Godmanchester for the time being, or the major part of them, should think fitt, w<sup>ch</sup> s<sup>d</sup> p<sup>h</sup>sal was, by the s<sup>d</sup> Justices, wholly approved.”—*Vide Covenant between the Corporation and Raby.*

P <sup>d</sup> Tho <sup>s</sup> . James, Carpenter .....	£17	4	0
P <sup>d</sup> W <sup>m</sup> . Cole, Bricklayer.....	37	0	0
Thompson, the Stone-cutter .....	0	17	0
Moneys p <sup>d</sup> by Mr. Bailiff Stocker to W <sup>m</sup> . Cole for and towards the almshouses .....	5	3	0

CHRISTOPHER FISHER'S CHARITY FOR APPRENTICES,  
A. D. 1674.

“ March 21st, 1678.<sup>a</sup>—Anno Regni Charles 2d,  
the thirtieth, Gumecester alias Godmanchester.

“ Memorandum—That whereas Mr. Joseph Baker  
and Mr. George Brent, executors of the last will  
and testament of Mr. Christopher Fisher, did in the  
year 1674, in pursuance of the powers given them  
in the said will, purchase two acres and three roods  
of meadow in Reed Meadow, which was by the said  
will to raise the sum of £5, to put out apprentice  
some poor boy of the said town of Godman<sup>r</sup>.

“ Which said meadow, so purchased, was demised  
by the said executors unto Henry Fitton, at the  
rent of fifty shillings per annum.

“ And that the first two years' rent due at St. Mi-  
chael's, 1675, and that the rent issuing out of the  
premises for other two years, ended S. Michael,  
1677, was this present day, by the said Mr. H.  
Fitton, tenant to the premises, and by the order of  
the said Mr. Joseph Baker and Mr. George Brent,  
paid into the hands of Mr. Wm. Smith of Godman<sup>r</sup>,

<sup>a</sup> Vide old Stock Book.

cordwinder, for his taking apprentice one William Stevenson, a poor boy of the said town, to be instructed in the said trade of cordwinder for the space of seven years, from the Feast of our blessed Virgin Mary, (called the Annunciation), next ensuing.

“*Ex assensu totius Curiae in plena Curia tent.  
die et Anno sup<sup>r</sup> dict.*

“*SAM. FOX, Clerk.*”

It does not appear in whom the property was vested, or that the meadow land was claimed for charitable uses at the time of the inclosure, and consequently this Charity may be considered lost.

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**BANKES'S CHARITY.—A.D. 1707.**

Extract from Mr. Joseph Bankes's Will, Nov.  
19th, 1707.

“Item—I give and bequeath unto the said Mary, my dear and loving wife, all my messuages, lands, ten<sup>ts</sup>, and heredit<sup>ts</sup> and estates whatsoever, lying and being in Dunton, Newton, and Milhoe, in the county of Bedford, to have and to hold the same unto my said wife for and during the term of her natural life; and after her decease, I give and bequeath the same to the said Thomas Parrott, her said son, to have and to hold to him for and during the term of his natural life; and after his decease, I give and bequeath the same to the said Frances Ambrose, Eliz. Ambrose, Jane Ambrose, Mary Ambrose, and Eliz. Stevens, and to their heirs and

assigns for ever, equally to be divided amongst them, subject nevertheless to this condition and payment hereafter mentioned:—that my said wife, and the said Thomas Parrott, and the said Frances, Eliz<sup>th</sup>, Jane, and Mary Ambrose, and Eliz<sup>th</sup> Stevens, and their heirs and assigns for ever, as they shall severally become possessed of my estate at Dunton, Newton, and Milhoe, &c.; pay yearly out of the rents, issues, and profits thereof for ever, to the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor of Godmanchester aforesaid, in the county of Huntingdon, for the time being, the sum of £12 of lawful money of Great Britain yearly for ever upon the Feast of St. Bartholomew, to be disposed and applied to such uses and purposes as are hereinafter expressed—viz. £5 to be distributed on the Feast of St. Bartholomew and New Year's-day, by even portions yearly for ever, for the use and to the poor of Godmanchester afores<sup>d</sup>, as the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor for the time being shall think fit, by giving one shilling to each of such fifty poor persons.

“ The first payment to be made on the Bartholomew-day that shall happen next after my decease, and so yearly after upon that day for ever. To be by them the said minister, churchwardens, and overseers for the time being, upon Bartholomew-day and New Year's-day, distributed amongst the s<sup>d</sup> poor inhabitants of Godmanchester aforesaid in manner aforesaid.”



The twelve pounds a year continue to be paid, seven pounds of which are annually applied to putting out a poor boy apprentice, and the remaining five pounds are distributed in bread to the most needy poor on Good Friday.

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CHARITY BOY AND OAR.—A.D. 1727.

Richard Croft, basket-maker, took seisin of the Boy and Oar, and the record contains this provision: “It is to be remembered that the said messuage or tenement and premises aforesaid are chargeable with and subject to and for the payment of ten shillings yearly, and every year for ever, on the 24th day of June in every year, to the Master or Usher of the Grammar School in Godmanchester aforesaid, and three shillings and four-pence yearly on Good-Friday, for ever, for bread to be distributed among the poor people in Godmanchester, by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor for the time being.”

The tenement was the property of the late Jonathan Hulm, and the eleemosynary charges are duly paid and applied.

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MANSOR'S CHARITY—A.D. 1738.

Mrs. Barbary Mansor, by will, left money in trust to Mr. Original Jackson and Mr. John Skeggs, for the purpose of building tenements for poor widows not receiving alms. Three tenements

were accordingly erected in Pinfold-lane, which are occupied as alm-houses, over the centre door of which is this inscription carved in stone.

“ These Houses Were  
Built With Charity  
Money Given By Mrs.  
Barbary Mansor For  
Three Poor Widows Not  
Takeing Alms. 1738.”

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THE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY FOR GIRLS, A. D. 1800.

This establishment was commenced by Mrs. Phœbe Fuller.<sup>b</sup> a Member of the Society of Friends or Quakers, in the year 1800, and who in the following year was assisted in her benevolent design by several families in Godmanchester, amongst whom and by whose exertions funds were raised for its immediate necessities, which have since been liberally supplied by donations, subscriptions, the produce of the work done in the school, and by col-

<sup>b</sup> The grand-daughter of Henry Gray, Esq. also a Member of the Society of Friends, many of whom reside in Godmanchester. On the female wards of the workhouse is this memorial of his philanthropy: “ H. Gray, of Godmanchester, Esquire, gave forty guineas towards building this part of the workhouse. 1791.”— Other dissenters of various religious denominations abound in Godmanchester. The Particular Baptists and Independents have meeting-houses, which are attended by numerous congregations resident in the town and neighbouring villages.

lections after a sermon annually preached in the church, in aid of the institution. The room originally hired for a school-room being found inadequate and otherwise inconvenient, the Bailiffs, Assistants, and Commonalty, at a special meeting held at the Horse Shoe Inn, March 7th, 1809, granted a plot of ground, then a road-way or thoroughfare, on the south side of the Court Hall, for the site of a suitable building, where a school-house and residence for the Mistress has been erected, the expenses attending which were defrayed by subscriptions amongst the inhabitants at large. The number of children educated in the establishment is now 24, and has varied with the state of the funds, averaging about 30 from the time of its institution. The revenues for the year 1830 were—

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand, Dec. 31st, 1829 .....	13	10	0
Subscriptions for the Year 1830.....	26	5	0
Collection after a Sermon preached by the Rev.			
C. Gray, Vicar.....	12	0	10
Receipts for Work during the year.....	13	9	6
	<hr/>		
	£65	5	4
	<hr/>		

“RULES for the GOVERNMENT of the SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY FOR GIRLS, in the parish of Godmanchester; established in 1801: and supported by voluntary contribution, for the purpose of instructing children, whose parents are unable to provide the means of so doing.

"1. That every subscriber to this Charity paying annually one guinea to the treasurer, for the use and benefit of the institution, shall have the liberty of recommending one child at a time to the choice of the committee; and those who subscribe two guineas, may send two children; and so in proportion for every guinea subscribed. Also that any benefaction will be thankfully received from such persons as do not choose to be annual subscribers.

"2. That a committee be elected annually, who, with a treasurer, shall superintend and direct the management of the school; also, that they are to meet for that purpose the first Thursday in every month, at eleven in the forenoon; and every subscriber voluntarily attending shall be considered of the committee, but not less than three shall have the power of acting.

"3. That a mistress be appointed, who shall teach the girls reading, knitting, sewing, and spinning, for which she shall receive a weekly salary: also, that the mistress shall take care of the manners of the children, discourage idleness, suppress vice and immorality, and teach them the principles of the christian religion.

"4. That the children are to be at school by nine o'clock in the morning, and go home at twelve; return at two in the afternoon, and go home at five, except when the days are so short that they cannot see to work so late as five, when they will be allowed but one hour for dinner, or an hour and a half, according to the length of the days: and their parents are expected to take care that this rule (as well as all others) is strictly attended to.

"5. That the mistress shall keep a book, in which she shall enter the names of those whose parents, from any particular circumstance, keep them at home, as a check against frivolous excuses of any kind, and in order to their exclusion, whenever this practice becomes too frequent; also if a child is absent a month from illness, and does not appear likely to recover soon, another shall be admitted, and the child so excluded shall be re-admitted as soon as an opportunity offers.

"6. That the children belonging to this school, are to assemble

in the school-room twice every Sunday, and walk two and two, in a decent orderly manner, to and from Church, under the care of their mistress; and no excuse, except sickness, shall be admitted for their not attending divine service.

"7. That no child shall be admitted into this school under the age of eight years, or be continued longer than the age of fourteen, (unless it should appear to the committee to be desirable they should remain another year); and by way of encouragement to girls, who after leaving the school with credit, enter into service and remain in their places for one year, and then bring a good character to the committee to entitle them to a premium, they shall receive one pound; and if they remain a second year in the same place, they shall receive ten shillings more; but to those who are hired within the parish of Godmanchester, only half that sum will be given: but no reward will be given after they are 18 years old.

"8. That one or more of the committee be appointed to visit the school twice a week for one month, and to make a report at the next monthly meeting, upon the conduct of the mistress and the improvement and behaviour of the children.

"9. That the children be required to appear at school neat and clean: and to preserve their new clothes by keeping in repair and wearing their old ones as long as possible.—The cloaks and pincloths given to the children are for general use, and not to be taken away with them when they leave the school.—The other articles of clothing are only lent for the first year, and if a child leave the school within a year after they are given them, they must be delivered to the mistress.

"10. That the surplus of the money collected and earned by the children (after the weekly payment of the mistress is made, and books, &c. paid for, for the use of the school) shall be applied in the way that appears to the committee most beneficial to the children.

"11. That a general meeting of the subscribers shall be held annually at the school-house, on the Thursday before Easter, for auditing the treasurer's accounts."

## THE NEW SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY FOR GIRLS

was established on the 6th of October, 1815, and is open to the admission of children of all religious denominations, who attend the respective places of worship appointed by their parents. They are educated in reading, plain-work, and knitting. The children are admitted at eight years of age, and dismissed at thirteen, during which time a gown is annually presented to each, and on leaving the school a cloth cloak of their own choice. No admission or other fees are allowed to be taken by the Mistress, whose salary and other incidental expenses are paid out of funds raised by donations, voluntary subscriptions, and the produce of the work done in the school. The annual revenues are about twenty guineas, the judicious management of which has formed a small accumulating fund, now amounting to £43, and which, when more ample, is to be appropriated to the erection of a school-house. Present number of children educated, twenty.—Books read,—Bible and Prayer-book.

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In addition to these various charitable endowments and institutions, we may notice that coals and cloathing are annually distributed amongst, and blankets lent to, the poor, during the winter season. These are supplied by general subscriptions, forming but one fund, and in the promotion of this work of benevolence and charity, Churchmen and Dissenters unite their exertions.

THE COURT HALL is a very antient and singular structure, and was formerly, in the literal sense of the word, an open court, having been accessible to the public on all sides. It is now surrounded by a wall, and its covering or roof, in which is a Council Chamber, is supported by stout oak posts. At various periods, for the last two centuries, entries occur in the accompts of the Bailiffs, of sums of money applied to its repair, but the date of its erection is unknown. In this Court-House the public business of the borough is transacted, but the private deliberations of the Corporation take place at special meetings held by adjournment at the Horse Shoe Inn.

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The revenues of the Corporation are principally derived from letting a small allotment of land awarded by the Commissioners at the time of the inclosure, in lieu of their royalties, and the manorial mills, the interior of which have been recently remodelled, and entirely rebuilt, at a considerable expenditure, and now constitute a valuable property.

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The right of mintage was never attached to the manor of Godmanchester; but trade tokens have been found there, two of which, stamped and circulated at the commencement of the 17th century, form the tail-pieces of this and the succeeding Chapter.

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## COMMUNICATION WITH HUNTINGDON.

A commodious and substantial stone bridge, consisting of six arches, over the river Ouse, four of which are of sufficient dimensions to admit of navigation with barges under them, connects the borough of Huntingdon with Godmanchester, and a mark or cross is placed in the centre of the bridge, to point out the boundaries of the two lordships. The present structure was probably erected in the reign of Edward I. as it appears by a quo warranto plea in the 43d of Henry III. A. D. 1259,<sup>c</sup> that an important litigation was then commenced between the inhabitants of the county

<sup>c</sup> *Pleas at Westminster, 43 Hen. III. Rotulo 19. A. D. 1259.*—  
“The whole county of Huntingdon complains of the burgesses of Huntingdon, for that the repairs of the bridge at Huntingdon fall upon the same county, and that the burgesses, by carrying dung over the said bridge to certain lands which they have purchased, and which they lead through the town to Gumecester, and to other places in those parts; and also the corn off the same lands into their granaries, in the town of Huntingdon, by which means the aforesaid bridge (to the reparation of which they afford no assistance) is shaken and impaired.

“And the burgesses appear and say that they have a right to carry dung, and have been wont to do so in all past times, at their own pleasure, to their lands in Gumecester and in those parts, and their corn and compost from the same parts of Huntingdon. They say, moreover, that the whole county of Huntingdon is free from the toll given in the town of Huntingdon, for the repairs of the aforesaid bridge.

“And the county well know that the aforesaid burgesses have been wont to pass and repass along the aforesaid bridge at their



and the burgesses of Huntingdon, as to who was liable to the repair of the then dilapidated and dangerous bridge. Their contentions were settled by an inquest<sup>d</sup> held in the 4th of Edward I. A.D. 1276, when this judgment was given:—

Plita Corone—corā Johe  
de Vullebꝫ Wiffo de —  
suis Justic itinerantibꝫ apud  
Hunt<sup>o</sup> in ꝑsō S̄ci Mich̄is  
Anno regni R̄ Edw. filii R̄  
Henrici quarto.

In a Plea of the Crown  
held at Huntingdon, on the  
Feast of St. Michael, in the  
fourth year of the reign of  
King Edward, son of King  
Henry, before John de Vulleb  
and William de —, his  
justices itinerant.

Villat' de Hunt' ven: p xij  
jur:

Hunt. County of Hunting-  
don.

Hunt. de Pontibꝫ & Cal-  
cetis &c. dicunt qd in aquis  
pons de Hunt' ita fractus  
est qd hōies prarie equites  
& pedites vix transire pos-  
sunt vel ducere carucas suas

The twelve jurors return  
as to the bridges and cause-  
way, and say that the bridge  
over the river at Hunting-  
don is so broken that it is  
almost impassable for pas-

own pleasure, with merchandize and all sorts of goods, as well as the aforesaid corn and dung produced in Gumecester and in the parts adjacent.

“ And because the burgesses are unable to shew why they should be free from the reparation of the bridge, by reason of the toll from which the county is free, on account of the repairs of the bridge: it is considered that the burgesses should be free of the bridge for such merchandize only as they should carry beyond the bridge. And it is ordered that the sheriff bind all those who carry dung beyond the bridge to contribute to the support thereof.”

<sup>d</sup> The original inquest is contained in the Record Chamber

propt̃ debilitatem eiusdem pontis ad magnum piçlum omnia transiuntm̃ & nocumētum totius prie.

Et dicunt qd p̃dcus pons debet rep̃ari p̃ h̃itantes totius comitatus videlt̃ p̃ quatuor hundred de Towesland Leightonstone Norman-crosse et Hurstingstone :

Ita qd unū quodq̃ hundred tenet ad sua ptem p̃dci pontis faciend suis sump-tibz.

Et quia p̃dicus pons non dum rept̃r ideo tota cōitas p̃dcor hundred (in una) et prept̃<sup>o</sup> est viz qd repar̃<sup>o</sup> fact p̃dcm pontem ad cust &c. infra quindena f̃sto Sci Martini sup forisfactur cent librar.

Item dixunt qd Calceta & parvi pontes intr̃ Hunt & Gu-mecester ita dixunt et de-

sengers on horseback or on foot, and that on account of the weakness of the said bridge, they cannot convey over it their implements of husbandry, to the great danger of all travellers and the injury of the whole country.

And they say that the said bridge ought to be repaired by the inhabitants of the whole county, to wit, of the four hundreds of Towesland, Leightonstone, Normancrosse, and Hurstingstone.

Also, that each of the four hundreds is liable to the repairing of its own part, at its own separate charge.

And because the said bridge is not so repaired, it is ordered, that is to say, that the commonalty of the four hundreds (in one) shall make reparation of the said bridge within fifteen days from the feast of St. Martinus, under the penalty of forfeiting £100.

And they return as to the causeway and the seven small bridges between Hunt-

trovant. Q<sup>d</sup> Prioris de Hunt'  
qui eos debet reparare qd  
hoies de patria & alienigene  
transire non possunt ad  
grave nocumentum &c.

tingdon and Gumecester,  
that they award and find,  
that the Prior of Hunting-  
don ought to repair them,  
but that they are impassable  
by either the inhabitants or  
others, to the great injury,  
&c.

Et p̄rept est viz qd re-  
pari faciat p̄vos pontes &  
Calceta ad cust ipius Prioris  
p visum jur' &c.

And by the award of the  
jury it is ordered, to wit,  
that the repair and mainte-  
nance of the small bridges  
and causeway shall be made  
at the costs of the said Prior.

It being decided by this Inquest that each of the four Hundreds of the County were chargeable to the repair of a separate fourth part of the bridge, it is highly probable that the antient bridge differed materially in form from the present one, and that from its then insecurity it was built of wood, as was the case with most bridges at that time; but that soon after the verdict here recorded, the present bridge was built, as from the strength of its foundations and the stability of the whole structure, it is impossible that, at any period since its erection, it can have been in the ruinous state above described.

The causeway noticed in this Inquest was a raised roadway, eight feet in breadth, between Godmanchester and Huntingdon, and the bridges (part of the foundations of which are still remain-

ing) were made in the causeway to facilitate the passage of the waters during floods. The repair of these bridges, and the state of the causeway, was of the utmost consequence to the public, as the road which ran parallel with and about two hundred yards from the causeway was utterly impassable during floods, at which times only the causeway was used, being at others closed by a chain at either end. The Prior of Huntingdon had become liable to the perpetual repairs of the causeway and bridges in a contract with the Bailiffs and men of Godmanchester, by which he and his successors had occupation of a piece of land lying between the causeway and the river, which lead to frequent disputes and litigations between them, from the bridges and causeway being allowed to fall into a state of dilapidation. Such was the case at the time of the above Inquest, but more particularly so in the early part of the 15th century, when the following *Arbitrium de Pontibus* was delivered in by the arbitrators, which confirmed the decision of the jurors, in A. D. 1276.

**ARBITRIUM DE PONTIBUS<sup>a</sup>.**

“ This endenture in Englyssh maad betwyssen John Maddyngley, Pryour of the chanownes of Huntyngdon, and the coñent of the same place, of the on ptye, and John Quenyve and John Manypeny, Ballyves of the town of Gumecester, and the comownes of the same town, of the othir ptye, berith wytnesse that the fyfthe day of the

<sup>a</sup> From the Black Letter Original in the Record Chamber.

monethe of Octobr̃, in the tenthe yeer of Kyng Herry the Syxte, it was fully acordyd and detm̃nyd befoure arbytroures chosen of both ptyes, that is for to lete Wyllyam Penteneye, srvant to the noble and worthy Prynce, Duk of Gloucestr, Wyllyam Westwode, clerk and srvant of the worthy lady, Countesse of Stafford and Herford, John Copegrey, chapeleyn of Gumecestr, and Thomas Charweston, of Huntyngdon, gentilman. They gevyn pleyn arbytrement that the seyð Pryour and the coñent aught be dewe composycyon to make and repayre sevene brygges betwene the town of Gumecestr and the grete brygge nexte Huntyngdon, of the whethe the flores of the syxte seyð brygges shall be evene and equypotent to the flore of the Pool Brygge nexte Gumecestr, so that whenne the watter rennyght on the flore of the poole brygge, that the wtter shal renne on the flores of the other syxe brygges, excepte that the flore of the secunde arche of the brygge nexte the grete brygge above-seyd shall be lowere than the flore of the poole brygge be foure enchyas of the statute for a lawsherd.

“Also the same arbytroures have geven pleyn arbytryment that there shal be set floodgates, and be maad be the seyð Pryour and his coñent in the place where as they were set and stood last besyde the reede medewe, in the fyfthe yeere of the seyð Kyng Herry, reservyd the brede and the depenesse as it was of the day of the makynge of this psent, to the heighte of the flore of the poole brygge aboveseyd, so that when the water rennyht on the flore of the poole brygge that the water renne on the seyð floodgates lette of nether ptye, wheche shall be maad be the feste of Synt Petyr, wheche is clepyd Adumota nexte sevyng the date of this psent.

“And in the mene tyme it was ordeynyd that the same floodgates shal be stoppyd, and a tre leyd on of the

heighte of the flore of the poole brygge aboveseyd, so that the water may renne on the same tre as aboveseyd. And if it so be that the foreseyd flood-gates be not maad and set there be the seyde feste of Seynt Petyr that thanne it shall be leuefull to the seyde Bayllyves and comownes to pull up and take away the same tre and damnyng, that the water may renne and have his cours as it dede at the day of the makyng of this psent into the tyme that bothe ptyes be otherwyse acordyd wyth, that the seyde tre and damnyng be not maad to the tyme that the seyde lawsherd be fully maad and endyd as it is above acordyd.

“Also what tyme the seyde flood-gates be maad and set, that the water ryse gretly to the heighte of half a nette yerde above the seyde flood-gates in noysannz of medewes and pastures of bothe sydes, than the Pryor shal so drawe the seyde flood-gates tyl the water be resonably abatyd, and if they be not drawne at the mesure aboveseyd if it nede, it is ordeynyd be the forseyed arbitroures that the Bayllyves of the seyde town of Gumecestr for the tyme beyng shal so drawe the seyde flood-gates tyl the water be resonably abatyd as it is aboveseyd, so that no psons unasygnyd be the seyde Pryour and Bayllyves shall medele or entermete of drawyng of the seyde flood-gates, and if he do he shall be corecte be the abyes of the seyde Pryour and Bayllyves.

“And in wytnessyng of these poyntes, artyculys, and acordes aboveseyd, as wel the seyde Pryor and his coñent as the Bayllyves and the comownes to this psent, the day and yeere aboveseyd, have put ther comown sceles and cygnetz. And if it so be that the seyde Bayllyves, ther successoures, or the comowners of Gumecestre aboveseyd, act hereafter contrarye or geynesey the comune scele of the same town, thaune in these actys and acordes the comune scele of the seyde Pryorye shal stonde in non effecte.

“ And if it may be foundyn that any pson of ethir ptye wyllefully do or offende any thyng in these artycules and poyntes aboveseyd, he to come into the peyne of xxs. to the ptys that fyndyth hym grevyd be th’assent and consent of the seyde Pryour and Baylles ; and if they among them may not acorde, that they chuse them an umpere to juggle and detmyne the trespasour to pay the quantyte for his gylte to the same ptys grevyn.”

The floodgates here mentioned were those alluded to in our Chapter on Drainage,<sup>e</sup> for the preservation of the waters and security of the millers at Hartford and Houghton ; and it will be observed that the Bailiffs of Godmanchester, who were then at issue with the Abbot of Ramsey as to the protection of their meadows in times of floods, reserved to themselves the entire control of these gates. Notwithstanding this arbitration of A. D. 1431, vexatious and expensive litigations soon recommenced between the parties, touching the premises, which were left to arbitrators mutually appointed, who delivered their letters of award,<sup>f</sup> solemnly sealed in St. Mary’s Church, Huntingdon, on Good Friday, A. D. 1486, the provisions of which effected a termination of their disputes.

On the suppression of the Priory of Huntingdon, the “ Calse Holme” fell into the occupation of Thomas Wyseman, and Samuel Wyseman, his son, who undertook the repairs of the causeway and bridges ; but in 1570 it was urged by the Bailiffs

<sup>e</sup> Page 199, line 2.

<sup>f</sup> Vide Appendix, No. 11.

and men of Godmanchester, that "the saide bridges and calsey haith sythens the dissoluc'on of the said Pryory remayned in reuyne and decay, to the nousance of the Queene's people;" and the Wysemans were called upon for the performance of their contract, upon which a lease<sup>s</sup> was entered into between the Bailiffs and twelve men on the one part, and Thomas Wyseman and Samuel Wyseman his son, on the other part, securing to them and their heirs the perpetual enjoyment of the Causeway Holme, on the conditions to which the Priors of Huntingdon had formerly been subject.

Various occupants appear subsequently to have held the land, on similar stipulations, until the year 1637, when one Robert Cook, on attempting to pass over the causeway, during a flood, fell into the water, and with difficulty escaped being drowned. Cook purchased the fee simple of the Causeway Holme, and by will, having first bequeathed a rent charge of £5 per annum to be distributed amongst the poor of Huntingdon, left the residue of the profits of the land to the future repair of the causeway and bridges. In 1710, the 9th of Queen Anne, an Act of Parliament was passed "for repairing and amending the highways leading from Royston, in the county of Hertford, to Wansford Bridge, in the county of Huntingdon," appointing Commissioners or Trustees for the general manage-

<sup>s</sup> Dated April 8th, 12<sup>o</sup> Eliz.



ment of the whole road. In 1765, the bridges and causeway being in a bad and ruinous state, and the low road frequently impassable, the Trustees obtained a new Act, which empowered them "to amend, widen, enlarge, and repair any causeway or bridges upon or on the side or sides of the said road, and to build, or cause to be built, any other bridge, &c. for horses, horses and carriages, &c. to pass over in times of floods, vesting all bridges and other works in the hands of the Trustees." This Act continued the liability of all persons, lands, tenements, &c. who either by law, custom, or usage, had been liable and chargeable to the repair of the road, bridges, &c., requiring the tenants and occupiers of such lands and tenements to pay their respective rents to the Treasurer of the Trustees. From this period the Trustees repaired the bridges and causeway, and took the rents and profits of Cook's Close.<sup>h</sup>

The continual expense of the causeway and bridges, induced the Commissioners, appointed by the last-mentioned act, to lay before Charles Nalson Cole and Thomas Gilbert, Esquires, A.D. 1776, a case, wherein they state that "they had expended upon the same, within the last ten years, a sum not less than £500, being more than the fee simple

<sup>h</sup> In an agreement between the Trustees and William Graves for three years, dated April 18th, 1768, for the Bridge Close, at £6. per annum, it is stated to be vested in the Trustees for the repair of the said bridges, after first allowing the poor of Huntingdon the annual sum of £5.

the lands are worth which were left for the repair of the bridges, and still the same are in a very ruinous state, being constantly in want of repair, and in time of floods exceeding dangerous for travellers, there not being sufficient width for two carriages to pass, and the length being near a quarter of a mile ; and sometimes the causeways blow up by the weight of water which lies against them, and in that case carriages, horses, and foot people are obliged to be ferried over ;” they therefore proposed to make a road sixty feet wide, with a foot-way of ten feet railed off from Huntingdon Bridge to the Bull Inn, in Godmanchester, at an estimated expence of £1700.

They therefore demanded—

“ Whether, under the circumstances of the case, by virtue of the several particular acts passed for repairing the highways leading from Royston to Wansford, which includes the present road, the trustees have a sufficient power given them to make a new road with arches, bridges, and causeways over and across the common land leading from Huntingdon Bridge to the Bull Inn in Godmanchester, lying between the two present roads, and whether they have a power to take down the present causeways, arches and bridges, and to appropriate the materials thereof towards the erection of the new intended ones, and to stop up the two old roads to prevent passengers from passing over them ?”

To which it was answered—

“ The surveyors of turnpikes have the same power under the General Turnpike Act of 13 Geo. III. c. 84, to

B B 2

divert and stop roads, with the approbation of the trustees, that the surveyors have under the General Highway Act of 13th Geo. III. c. 78, and may apply the fund created by the act under which they are surveyors to such purposes. The power is given by the General Turnpike Act, but they must in the execution pursue the General Highway Act. The small bridges are, by the 13th Geo. III. cap. 5, part of the Royston road or turnpike road. The surveyors may, having obtained an order from the trustees, and having obtained the consent of the owners of the land through which the intended new road is purposed to be carried, by an application to justices at a special sessions, under the General Highway Act, proceed to execute the intended new road."

And, secondly, they answered to other queries respecting Cook's lands :

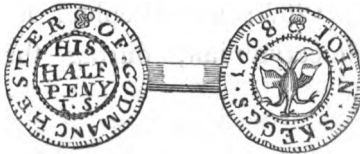
" That the profits of Mr. Cook's lands are applicable under the Royston Turnpike Act, the General Highway Act and the General Turnpike Act, to the future repair of the new intended road. The repair of the bridges and causeway is laid on the trustees of the Royston Act, who have by their act a clause under which Cook's lands are made part of their funds. By the General Highway Act, lands charged for the maintenance of old roads stopped up, are liable to the same charge for the new road made in lieu of the old road."

The opinion being conclusive as to the powers of the Trustees, they determined to close the old road, abolish the antient causeway, and to form a new road between the causeway and the old road, elevated beyond the reach of the highest floods,

and by their judicious arrangements the plan was quickly carried into execution.

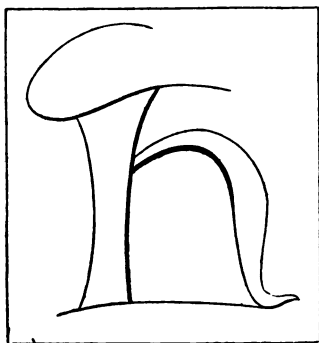
In A.D. 1784 an excellent road was completed from the Bull Inn, Godmanchester, to Huntingdon Bridge, being a distance of 572 yards, 60 feet wide, with a foot-path ten feet wide, neatly railed off for the accommodation of foot-passengers, preserving under them a free passage for the waters, during times of floods, by the erection of two substantial bridges,<sup>1</sup> each containing eight capacious arches, whereby the dangers and inconveniences of former times are now effectually prevented.

<sup>1</sup> On a rail upon the bridge nearest Godmanchester is this inscription,—“Robertus Cooke, ex aquis emersus, hoc viatoribus sacrum, A. D. 1637.”



## CHAPTER XII.

## BIOGRAPHY.



AVING fully investigated the antient and modern History of Godmanchester, and amply set forth and illustrated its peculiar customs, we shall conclude our labours with a short Biographical Memoir of William

of Godmanchester, who was elected Abbot of Ramsey A.D. 1267 ; and Stephen Marshall, the celebrated Smectymnian, during the Commonwealth.

## GULIELMUS DE GURMECESTER

succeeded Hugh de Sulgrave, as Abbot of Ramsey, in 1267. As but little is known of him, saving what may be collected Ex Registro de Ramsey, we shall confine our biographical notice to their short but comprehensive memoir of him.

“ Abbot William.<sup>a</sup>—He was elected to the Ab-bacy, and received the confirmation of the Legate Ottobon in the year 1267. He purchased of Berengarius le Moygne the manors of Bernewell, Hemington, Crouthorpe, and Littleport, with the presentation to the church of St. Andrew’s in Bernewell, in the year 1276; in the same year he finished the Refectory, and in the year following, at his own costs, formed an aqueduct from Ramsey to the Abbey, and presented many gifts to the church of Ramsey. He presided as Abbot eighteen years, and in the nineteenth was attacked with paralysis, in consequence of which infirmity he voluntarily resigned the crosier, and, relinquishing office, died after having lingered fourteen months.”

Out of the above grants to the Abbey, he founded many charitable donations to the poor, to be distributed in bread, cloathing, and money, of which the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, as published by the Record Commissioners, gives the following list:

<sup>a</sup> “ Abbas Willielmus.—Iste electus est in abbatem et confirmatus per Ottobonum legatum anno MCCLxvij. Iste perquisivit de Berengario le Moygne maneria de Bernewell, Hemington, Crouthorpe, et Littlethorp, cum advocacione ecclesiæ sancti Andree de Bernewell Anno Domini MCCLxxvj et hoc anno intravit conventus primo in Refectorium, et anno sequenti fecit conductum aquæ in Ramesia sumptibus propriis, et multa alia perquisita fecit ecclesiæ Ramesiensi, Iste fuit Abbas octodecim annos, et in decimo nono anno percussus fuit paralysi, propter quod resignavit baculum et sponte cessit ab officio suo, et vixit post per unum annum et menses duo obiit.”—*Ex Regist. Dugdale.*

Monasteriu' de Ramsey in Com' Hunt' ex fundacione  
Comitis Ailwini ubi Johannes Warbois est modo Abbas  
et Incumbens.

Elimos' annuatim distribut'

Ex fundacione Willmi Gormancestr' nuper Abbt' iſm.

£                      s.                      d.

Denar' petit' p tot' denar' p incum-  
bent' monaster' predicti solut' pro  
xxxix quart' fſi ad vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> le quart'  
pro pane inde fiend' voc Knightes-  
loves dat' xiiij paupibus vocat Freers  
cuit eorum una septim' x pan' et  
altra sept' xj pan' attingen' ad  
miſmū p dictas ij sept' xiiij<sup>s</sup> xiiij pan'  
et ſiliter deliſat' ad le stoross p  
pueris paupibus voc Le Amery vj  
pan' de eodem fſo cotidie q'atting'  
ad ſumam de iiij<sup>s</sup> iiiij pan' p dict ij  
septim' et ſic hmoi panes tam pro  
xiiij<sup>s</sup> paupibus q<sup>m</sup> pro pueris paupū  
p dict' ij septiman' extendunt ad  
xviij<sup>s</sup> xviij pan' fact' et piſſat' de j  
quart' et iiiij<sup>or</sup> fſi et ſic juxta ratam  
per totum annū xxxix quart' fſi. . . xiiij      —      —  
Et in elimos' dat paupibus ad ſeptem  
feſta principal . . . . . —      —      xxj  
Et in veſtur' xvj fratrum voc Freers  
commarat' in Ramsey cuit eorum  
ij<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> pro veſtura per annū . . . —      xl      —  
Et in elimos' dat' xiiij paupibus voc  
Bretherne cuit eorū per annū ij<sup>s</sup>  
viij<sup>d</sup> ex fundacōe predicti Abbt'  
Gormancestr' . . . . . —      xxxiiiij      viij  
Et in elimos' dat iijbꝝ paupibus voc

Godd<sup>s</sup> cuitt eorū p diem ob per  
 annū . . . . . — xliij xiob  
 Et in elimos' dat' aliis iij paupibus co-  
 tidie tam ex<sup>n</sup>eis quam infra villam  
 de Ramsey morant' cuitt' eorum  
 per diem q<sup>a</sup> per annū . . . . . — xxij ixob q<sup>a</sup>  
 In toto . . £xx iij i q<sup>a</sup>

These relations of him are honourable to his memory, and good testimonies that his piety was sincere, and his zeal in the cause of the church unquestionable. The Refectory finished by William of Godmanchester was begun by Hugo de Sulgrave, his predecessor, who was elected Abbot in 1254.

#### THE LIFE OF STEPHEN MARSHALL.

Stephen Marshall, the celebrated Parliamentary Divine and head of the Smectymnians, was born at Godmanchester in the close of the 16th century. In the year 1615, he was entered a student of Emmanuel College, Cambridge,<sup>b</sup> where he took the degree of B. A., and soon after became Minister of Finchingfield, in Essex. There he opened a Conventicle, the first known in that neighbourhood, and by the popularity of his sermons, acquired such reputation, that he was frequently selected to preach before the long Parliament, who consulted him in all affairs relating to religion.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>b</sup> "Steph: Marshall, Col. Eman. conv. 2 admissus. in matriculam Acad. Cant. April 1, 1616."—*Reg. Col. Em. Baker.*

<sup>c</sup> Neale.



“The prevalence of the Presbyterian sect<sup>d</sup> in the Parliament, fully evinced itself from the beginning ; Marshall and Burgess, two Puritanical Clergymen, were chosen to preach before them, and entertained them with discourses seven hours in length,” an improbability, which is observed upon by Godwin,<sup>e</sup> “that the most considerable of the Parliament sermons were printed, and that scarcely one of them would occupy more than one hour in the delivery.” The sermons of Marshall and other schismatics were delivered with an earnest solemnity, powerfully to impress the importance of their doctrines, which, being directed at the entire overthrow of monarchial state, and episcopalian church governments, and enforced with fanatical zeal, occupied more time than from modern custom can be given credence to ; for even “Hampden<sup>f</sup> resolved to fly to the other extremity of the globe, where he and his friends might enjoy lectures and discourses of any length or form which pleased them.”

On the triumph of the puritan party in the church, Marshall relinquished his ministry in Essex, and resided in London. Fuller,<sup>g</sup> a celebrated royalist and clergyman, states, that “after many years’ discontinuance he returned to Cambridge, took the degree of B.D. performing his exercise with general applause ;” and that “in the

<sup>d</sup> Hume and Nalson.

<sup>e</sup> Godwin’s Commonwealth, vol. i. p. 11.

<sup>f</sup> Godwin.

<sup>g</sup> Fuller’s Worthies, 1662.

late long-lasting parliament, no man was more gracious with the principal members thereof; he was their trumpet by whom they sounded their solemn fasts, preaching more sermons upon that occasion than any four of his function. In their sickness he was their confessor, in their assembly their councillor, in their treaties their chaplain, in their disputations their champion.”<sup>h</sup> Marshall was appointed one of the Assembly of Divines for and against Episcopacy, and employed in most, if not all, the negotiations between the King and the Parliament.

In 1640,<sup>i</sup> the Presbyterian Ministers began to whisper sedition amongst their congregations, and soon after openly to preach in their conventicles, that for the cause of religion it was not only lawful but meritorious<sup>k</sup> for subjects to take up arms against their Sovereigns.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>h</sup> “Even the Archbishop of Canterbury had never so great an influence upon the counsels at Court, as Dr. Burgess and Mr. Marshall had then upon the Houses.”—*Clarendon*.

<sup>i</sup> Wood’s *Athen. Oxoniensis*.

<sup>k</sup> Their favourite text upon these occasions, was from the 23d v. of the 5th chapter of Judges, “Curse ye, Merez, said the Angel of the Lord; curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof, because they came not to the help of the Lord against the mighty.” In their infuriated zeal, they not only inveighed against, but in plain terms pronounced God’s own curse against all those who came not with their utmost power and strength to destroy and root out all the malignants who in any degree opposed the Parliament.—*Clarendon’s Rebellion*.

<sup>1</sup> “The Parliament declared the King had no mind to peace,

In 1641 was published the celebrated book, so often quoted in disputes between the Episcopalians and the Presbytery, "An Answer to a Book entitled '*An Humble Remonstrance*,'"<sup>m</sup> in which the original Liturgy and Episcopacy is discussed, and Queries propounded concerning both. The parity of Bishops and Presbyters in Scripture demonstrated; the occasion of their imparities in Antiquity discovered; the disparity of the antient and our modern Bishops manifested; the Antiquity of Ruling Elders in the Church vindicated; the prelatial Church bounded. Written by Smectymnuus."<sup>n</sup>

The word "Smectymnuus" was composed of the initials of its author's names, Stephen Marshall, Edmund Calamy, Thomas Young, Matthew Newcomen, and William Spurstow, and the book was written with the vehemence and in the asperity of language with which the Puritans assailed

and thereupon laid aside all farther debates to that purpose, and ordered their General to march to Windsor with the army, to be so much nearer the King's forces; for the better recruiting whereof, two of the most eminent Chaplains, Dr. Downing and Mr. Marshall, publicly avowed, 'that the soldiers lately taken prisoner at Brentford, and discharged and released by the King, upon their oaths that they would never again bear arms against him, were not obliged by that oath, but by their power absolved therefrom,' and so engaged again those miserable wretches in a second Rebellion."—*Clarendon*.

<sup>m</sup> Written by Dr. Joseph Hall, Bishop of Exeter.

<sup>n</sup> London, 1641. 4to.

the church. It was divided into eighteen sections, in all of which, particularly the last, the differences between the Prelatists and Puritans are set forth and aggravated with great acrimony. Then follow sixteen queries, the last of which runs thus : “ Whether,<sup>o</sup> having proved that God never set such a Government in his Church as our Episcopal Government is, we may lawfully any longer be subject to it, be present at their Courts, obey their injunctions, and especially be instruments in publishing and executing their excommunications and absolutions.” The Appendix contains “ an Historical Narration of those bitter fruits, Pride, Rebellion, Treason, Unthankfulness,” &c. which it states have issued from Episcopacy ; concluding with, “ The inhuman butcheries,<sup>p</sup> bloodsheddings, and cruelties of Gardiner, Bonner, and the rest of the Bishops in Queen Mary’s days, are so fresh in every man’s memory, as that we conceive it a thing altogether unnecessary to make mention of them. Only we fear lest the guilt of the blood then shed should yet remain to be required at the hands of this nation, because it hath not publicly endeavoured to appease the wrath of God, by a solemn and general humiliation for it. What the practices of the Prelates have been ever since, from the beginning of Queen Elizabeth’s reign to this very day, would fill a volume, like Ezekiel’s roll, with lamenta-

<sup>o</sup> Smectymn: p. 82.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid, p. 93.

tion, mourning, and woe, to record. For it hath been their great design to hinder all further reformation ; to bring in doctrines of popery, arminianism, and libertinism ; to maintain, propagate, and much increase the burden of human ceremonies ; to keep out and beat down the preaching of the word ; to silence the faithful preachers of it ; to oppose and persecute the most zealous professors ; and to turn all religion into a pompous outside ; and to tread down the power of godliness, insomuch as it is come to an ordinary proverb, that when any thing was spoiled, we used to say, *the Bishop's foot is in it*. And in all this, and much more which might be said, fulfilling Bishop Bonner's prophecy, who, when he saw that in King Edward's Reformation there was a reservation of ceremonies and hierarchy, is creditably reported to have used these words, '*Since they have begun to taste our broth, it will not be long ere they eat of our beef.*' "

On the appearance of Smectymnuus, which was considered by the Puritans to have given the death-blow to Prelacy, Doctor Hall published a vindication of the Humble Remonstrance, to which the Smectymnians replied. Milton became a zealous partizan of the Church and State Reformers, and published " Animadversions upon the Remonstrant's defence against Smectymnuus," to which Dr. Hall's son replied, in " A modest Confutation of a late Scurrilous Libel," which may rather be considered an attack upon the private character of

Milton, than a *confutation* of the arguments of his literary antagonist. Milton then published his "Apology for Smectymnuus," and seized the opportunity of justifying the chastity of his life and habits, and his motives for entering into the controversy. "And where my morning haunts are he wisses not—I'll tell him.<sup>a</sup> Those morning haunts are where they should be, at home ; not sleeping, or concocting the surfeits of an irregular feast, but up and stirring ; in winter, often ere the sound of any bell awaken men to labour or devotion ; in summer, as oft with the bird that first rouses, or not much tardier, to read good authors, or cause them to be read, till the attention be weary, or memory have its full fraught ; then with useful and generous labours preserving the body's health and hardiness, to render lightsome, clear, and not lumpish obedience to the mind, the cause of religion and our country's liberty, when it shall require firm hearts in sound bodies to stand and cover their stations, rather than see the ruin of our protestation, and enforcement of a slavish life." In a subsequent paper he reverts to the subject :<sup>r</sup> "For me, I have determined to lay up, as the best treasure and solace of a good old age, if God vouchsafe it me, the honest liberty of free speech from my youth, where I shall think it available in so dear a con-

<sup>a</sup> Milton's Apology.

<sup>r</sup> "Reasons for Church-government urged against Prelaty, in two Books."

cernment as the Church's good. By this little diligence, mark what a privilege I have gained with good men and saints, to claim my right of lamenting the tribulations of the Church if she should suffer, when others that have ventured nothing for her sake, have not the honour to be admitted mourners. But if she lift up her drooping head and prosper, among those that have something more than wished her welfare, I have my charter and freehold of rejoicing to me and my heirs." These tracts were followed up by one "Of Prelatical Episcopacy, and whether it may be deduced from the apostolical times," &c.; and another, "Of Reformation touching Church Discipline in England, &c. in two Books." We have made this free mention of Milton, as connected with the controversy in which Marshall was engaged, to shew that it was considered in the times in which he lived, a cause worthy of the learning and talent of one of his most powerful and virtuous contemporaries.

Dr. Wilkins, afterwards Bishop of Chester, in his *Ecclesiastes*, or a Discourse concerning the gift of Preaching, calls Smectymnuus "a capital work against Episcopacy:" and Dr. Calamy, in his Postscript to the Abridgment of Baxter's Life, professing to instruct the curious reader as to the books best calculated to form a true notion of the merits of non-conformity, and Neale, in his History of the Puritans, mention it in similar terms.

The death of Pym, at the close of the year 1643, was considered by the Puritans and the Republican party, a national calamity. He<sup>s</sup> had been one of the most conspicuous Members at the beginning of the long Parliament, and Clarendon calls him "the most popular man that ever lived." On this occasion Marshall preached a sermon, which was printed in the following year, and entitled "The Church's Lamentation for the Good Man's Loss,"—on Micah the 7th chap. v. i. and ii.,<sup>t</sup> and expressive as is the text, the commentary is a strain of panegyric and lamentation, frequently bordering on bombast. Pym is compared to John the Baptist, "for that he was taken away violently, after but two or three years' working," and "he was a man whom God went about to bribe," &c.

In 1643,<sup>u</sup> Marshall was selected by Parliament, with his son-in-law Philip Nye, (an Independent,) Minister of Kimbolton, Hunts., and sent in commission to Scotland to expedite the covenant. Soon after this he published his Sermon on Infant Baptism, which was answered, in 1645, by John Tombes, a celebrated Anabaptist.

<sup>s</sup> Godwin.

<sup>t</sup> "Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the first ripe fruit. The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net."

<sup>u</sup> Baker.



In 1646,<sup>v</sup> “Stephen Marshall with Joseph Caryl, both by that time notorious Independents, and great siders with the army raised by the Parliament to pluck down the King and his party, were appointed Chaplains to the Commissioners sent by the said Parliament to the King, then at Newcastle, in order for an accommodation of peace. Thence, by easy journies, they accompanied the King and Commissioners to Holdenby, in Northamptonshire; where his Majesty making some continuance, without any of his Chaplains in ordinary to wait upon him, because they disrelished the covenant; they the said Ministers, upon desire of the Commissioners, did offer their service to preach before the King, and say grace at meals, but they were both by him denied, the King always saying grace himself with an audible voice, standing under the state; so that Caryl and Marshall, to whom the King nevertheless was civil, did take so great disgust at his Majesty’s refusals, that they did ever after mightily promote the independent slander of the *King’s obstinacy*. ’Tis said, that Marshall did on a time put himself more forward than was meet, to say grace, and while he was long in forming his chaps, as the manner was among the saints, and making ugly faces, his Majesty said grace himself, and was fallen to his meat, and had eaten up some part of his dinner before Marshall had ended the blessing.”

<sup>v</sup> Wood’s *Athenæ Oxoniensis*.

About this period the Smectymnians and officers of the Parliament army began to wear handkerchiefs about their necks, which afterwards degenerated into cravats, when their cant, grimace, nasal twang, and peculiarity of dress, became subjects of ridicule in the loyal songs of the Royalists, as in Butler's Geneva Ballad :

“ To draw in proselytes, like bees,  
 With pleasing twang, he tones his prose,  
 He gives his handkerchief a squeeze,  
 And draws John Calvin through his nose.”

And in another poem, Oliver's Court :

“ If he be one of the canting tribe,  
 Both a Pharisee and Scribe,  
 And hath learn'd the snivelling tone,  
 Of a flux'd devotion,  
 Cursing from his swearing tub  
 The Cavalier's to Beelzebub ;  
 Let him repair,” &c.

The facetious Ralpho, the loyal Squire of Hudibras<sup>w</sup> represents the functions of the Scribes, Commissioners, and Triers, with the humour and fidelity of a Hogarth :

“ Whose bus'ness is, by cunning sleight,  
 To cast a figure for men's light ;  
 To find in lines of beard and face,  
 The physiognomy of Grace ;”

<sup>w</sup> Hudib. c. 3, l. 1154.

Again, by

“ The handkerchief\* about the neck,  
    (Canonical cravat of Smeck,  
From whom the institution came,  
When Church and State they set on flame,  
And worn by them as badges then  
Of spiritual warfaring men,)  
Judge rightly, if Regeneration  
Be of the newest cut in fashion.”

The Triers and Commissioners in that Puritan age pretended to great judgment in matters of regeneration, merely from the dress and looks of those who underwent their inquisition. Dr. Eachard says, “ they would scarce let a round-faced man go to heaven. If he had but a little blood in his cheeks, his condition was accounted very dangerous, and it was almost an infallible sign of reprobation.” Dr. South, in one of his sermons, observes, “ that they would pretend to know men’s hearts and the inward bent of their spirits, as they expressed it, by their very looks.” How disgusting an humiliation to the fallen Charles, to be subject to the officious impertinence of such a *set of godly cut-throats*, as they are emphatically called by Walker, in his History of Independency.

In 1647, the Rev. Henry Hammond, son of Dr. Hammond, physician to Prince Henry, published a vindication of Christ’s representing Saint Peter, against the exceptions of Marshall, who was this

\* Hudib. c. 3, l. 1165.

year selected by the Parliament, in conjunction with Charles Hearle,<sup>7</sup> and sent with the Commissioners to Scotland, to "give them a right understanding of the affairs in England." Marshall now possessed the highest confidence of the Parliament, and perhaps more particularly that of Cromwell, the future Protector, who, in the spring of the following year, writing to his "noble friend, Colonel Richard Norton" (from Farnham, March 23d, 1648) says,<sup>2</sup> "For news out of the north there is little, only the mal partye is prevailinge in the par<sup>mt</sup> of S—. They are earnest for a warr, the ministers oppose as yett. Mr. Marshall is returned, whoe sayis soe, and soe doe many of our letters; their great committee of dangers have 2 malig. for one right."

After this last expedition into Scotland, Marshall gradually withdrew from the public, and retiring to Ipswich, passed there the two last years of his life; when, according to Eachard, "this great Shimei, being taken with a desperate sickness, departed the world mad and raving." We must not be surprised at this ungenerous aspersion, for a man of Marshall's notoriety and strong religious predilections, whose ministerial vocations connected him with all the important events of the age in which he lived, was loaded with the encomiums of his own faction, and equally abused by the Roy-

<sup>7</sup> Athen. Oxón.

<sup>2</sup> Noble's Life of Cromwell.

alists and Episcopalians, who designated him as the Geneva Bull,<sup>a</sup> a famous incendiary, and the arch-flamen of the rebellious rout.<sup>b</sup> The charge of inconsistency has been brought against him, in consequence of his having been materially instrumental in forming the *Directory*,<sup>c</sup> and then having married his daughter by the form prescribed in the *Common Prayer*: but in this Marshall merely evinced the prudence of an anxious parent, and excused himself on the plea that was urged by the Protector Cromwell, that “ he was unwilling to have his daughter w——d and turned upon his hands for want of a legal marriage,” the statute for establishing the Liturgy not having been repealed. The Rev. G. Firman, in his preface to one of Marshall’s posthumous Sermons, observes, that “ he had left few such labourers as himself behind him ; that he was a Christian by practice as well as profession; that he lived by faith and died by faith, and was an example to the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in faith and purity.” That “ when he and others were talking with Mr. Marshall about his death, he replied, *I cannot say as he, I have not*

<sup>a</sup> Foulis, Eachard.

<sup>b</sup> Dugdale calls him the “ Bell-wether of that blessed flock Presbyterianorum ante-signamus,” and mentions his being appointed, with two others, to pray and preach with the members of the House of Commons on the day fixed for the “ Humiliation and Fast,” after the news had arrived of Charles being removed from Holmby or Holdenby House, by Colonel Joyce.

<sup>c</sup> Dr. Grey.

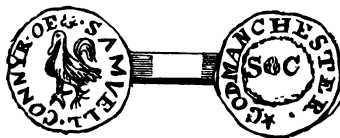
*so lived that I should now be afraid to die ; but this I can say, I have so learned Christ that I am not afraid to die.* He retained his mental faculties to his dying hour, but lost the use of his hands and appetite, insomuch that he could take but little food for some months previous to his death.” Other encomiasts of Marshall<sup>d</sup> have observed, that if all the Bishops had been of the spirit and temper of Archbishop Usher, the Presbyterians of that of Marshall, and the Independents like Mr. Jer. Burroughs, the divisions of the church would have been easily compromised.

His remains were solemnly interred in the south aisle of the Collegiate Church of St. Peter, Westminster, Nov. 23d, 1655 ;<sup>e</sup> and after the Restoration were exhumed,<sup>f</sup> with those of Joseph Mede, Thomas May the poet, and William Strong, a minister, on the 14th of September, 1661, and buried in one large pit in the church-yard of St. Margaret, before the back-door of the lodgings belonging to one of the prebendaries of Westminster.

<sup>d</sup> Baxter and Neale.

<sup>e</sup> Wood's Fasti Oxon.

<sup>f</sup> Wood's Ath. Oxon.





## A P P E N D I X.

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### No. 1.

KING JOHN'S GRANT OF THE MANOR TO THE MEN OF  
GODMANCHESTER, AT FEE FARM, 20TH OF MAY, 1213.

JOHANNES Dei gra<sup>o</sup> Rex Anglie Dñs Hibernie Dux Normany Aquit<sup>o</sup> Comes Andeg<sup>o</sup> Archiepis Epis Abbatibz Comitibz Baronibz Justic<sup>o</sup> Vicecomitibz Prepositis & omnibz Ballivis & fidelibz suis Sltm. Sciatis, nos concessisse & hac Carta nostra confirmasse Hominibz nostris de Gumecestr' Manium nostrum de Gumecestr' tenend de nobis & Heredibz nostris ad feodi firmam cum Omnibz ad firmam illius Manii ptinentibz p sexcies viginti libr<sup>o</sup> pondē & nu<sup>o</sup> p Annum Scilicet medietatem ad festum S<sup>c</sup>i Mich<sup>i</sup> & aliam medietatem ad Pasch<sup>o</sup> ad Scaccarium nostrum. Quare volum<sup>o</sup> & firmit<sup>o</sup> precipimus qd p<sup>r</sup>dicti homines nostri de Gumecestr' habeant & teneant de nobis & heredibz nostris p<sup>r</sup>dictum Manium de Gumecestr' bene & in pace libē & quiete & integre cum omnibz libtatibz ad firmam p<sup>r</sup>dicti Manii ptinentibz p p<sup>r</sup>dictam firmam Annuam scilicet sexcies viginti lib<sup>s</sup> sicut p<sup>r</sup>dictum est q<sup>d</sup>diu nobis p<sup>r</sup>dictam firmam bene reddiderent.—Test. Dño P. Winton Epo. Willo Com Sarr frē nro. Willo com Arundell. Willo Briewerr. Hugone de Nevill. Willo de Hare-



court Senesç nro. Johē fil Hugon. Henr fil Com Petro de Maulay. Data p manum Magri Ricard de Marisco Archidiacon Northumbr' apd Turrim Lond vicesima die Maii Anno Regni nri quarto-decimo.

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No. 2.

ROTULI HUNDREDORUM—IN TUR. LOND. A° 7° Ed.1.  
COM' HUNT'.

INQUISITIONES capt' ex pte dñi Regis in Comitatu HUNTINGDON' a° regni Regis Edwardi primi septimo tam de dñicis dñi Regis & teod feodalibz eschaetis libertatibz ac rebus cunctis feod & tenement' dñi Reg' contingentibus quam aliorum quocumq, et qui ea tenent in dñico ut in dñico, in villanis ut in villanis, in svis ut in svis, in cotariis ut in cotariis, et postmod in libis tenentibz ut in libis tenentibz, et in boscis & in parcis, in chaciis, & in warennis, in aquis, in ripariis & oibz libtatibz & feriis mercatis & aliis tenuris quibzcumq, & quocumq, modo, & de quibus, sive de mediis, sive de aliis & de quibz feod & aliis tenuris Scutagium dari consuevit & dari debet & quantum de feod honoz quocūq, & qui feoda illa tenent quali? & quomodo & a quo tempe.

GOMCESTR'.

- . . . . nđ ; que & qot dñica maneria Rex ƒit in manu sua, &c.
- . . . nt qđ Rex nō ƒit aliqª maneria in manu sua in comitatu HUNT'.
- a . . nq'r' que maneria solebant ẽẽ in manibz dñi Reg' & pdecessoz suoz &c.

- . . . nt qđ GOMECESTR' cū qđam bosco q' vocatr RA-  
VENESHO qui nūc assartatr quē . . . . s3 nesciunt  
quo waranto neq, a quo tempore.
- . . . unt qđ BRAMTONE, ALKEMONDEBIR' cū LIM-  
MYNGE, HERFORD cū RIPTONA solebant . . . . Reg'.
- . . . nt qđ hōies de GOMECESTR' tenent GOMECESTR'  
p cartā dñi Reg' Johis p sexies viginti . . . . .  
duobz tminis anni London' in scaccar' & qđ Rex  
Henric<sup>o</sup> ctulit pdictū reddit' sexies vig . . . . .  
Eadwardo fit suo & jam tenuit p xij<sup>clm</sup> annos.
- b* . . . nt qđ hōies de GOMECESTR' solebant ĩre liām pis-  
cariam de . . . . WERE usq, ad Hayle s3 nunc . . .  
ntr p Episcopū Lincolniens' Galfrid le Moyne Wiffm  
de Brouton' Nicholaū de Seg<sup>ve</sup> Piorē de Yvon'  
Psonā de Boutona Plorem Hunt' Abbat' de Rameseya  
Reginald le Grey Magistřm Johim Clarel & p dñum  
Johim Milit' de Offord Dacy Johim Dulay potestate  
eoꝝ & auctoritate ppria.
- c* ĩm inquir' que & q<sup>ntū</sup> q'libet liāe tenens p cartā vř  
libere sokemann<sup>o</sup> aut bondus tenet in dñis mansiis  
de dño Rege in capite vř p mediū & p quod ſviciū.  
Ad hoc dicunt qđ liāi sokemanni sunt nec est bondus  
in<sup>o</sup> eos & solebant tener' de dño Rege in capite s3  
m<sup>o</sup> tenent de dño Edmundo tauq<sup>m</sup> p mediū cui dñs  
H. Rex mansiū de GOMECESTR' ctulit p cartam.
- d* Prior de M'ton' tenet ecċiam de GOMECESTR' de dono  
pdecessoꝝ dñi E. Reg' Angł q' nūc est s3 de cui<sup>o</sup>  
dono & a q<sup>o</sup> tempe ignorant.  
ĩm ĩdē Pior t3 xlvij ac<sup>r</sup> ĩre in GOMECESTR' un' ecċia  
pđca dotat'.  
ĩm ĩdē Pior tenet xv ac<sup>s</sup> p<sup>ti</sup> in qđam sepali loco p  
decima toci<sup>o</sup> feni ville.  
Aug<sup>o</sup>tin<sup>o</sup> de Canonicis tenz de Plorem de M'tona ij mes'  
& unū croftū de feod ecċie & solvit eidem viij s. p ā.

Wiffs Bulgun t3 j mes' de eod P<sup>l</sup>ore & solvit p annū  
ij s.

Wiffs Mareschallus t3 j mes' de eod P<sup>l</sup>ore & solvit p  
annū iij s.

Symon Porcari<sup>o</sup> t3 j mes' de eod P<sup>l</sup>ore & solvit p ann'  
viij. d.

Wiffs Molend<sup>ē</sup> t3 j mes' de eod P<sup>l</sup>ore & solvit xvij d.

Wiffs de Hanele t3 j mes' de eod P<sup>l</sup>ore & solvit p annū  
ij s.

Joñs Mareschallus t3 j mes' & solvit eið P<sup>l</sup>ori xij d.

Wiffs Hou t3 j mes' & j croftu solvendo P<sup>l</sup>ori de  
M'ton' v s.

Henric<sup>o</sup> Porter t3 j mes' & solvit P<sup>l</sup>ori de M'tone  
iiij s. viij d.

Rog' de Matishale t3 j mes' & solvit P<sup>l</sup>ori dē M'ton'  
ij s. iiij d.

Idem P<sup>l</sup>or de M'ton pcip' p decima molendinoꝝ xxvj s.  
viij d.

P<sup>l</sup>or Hunt' tenet q<sup>o</sup>ddam p<sup>ti</sup>ū ad faciendū calcetū inter  
GOMECESTR' & HUNT' & ali . . . . . GOMECESTR'  
sz quo waranto & a quo tempore nesciunt.

e P<sup>l</sup>or de M'ton' tenet lxvj ac<sup>s</sup> & dimid ĩre & viij ac<sup>s</sup>  
p<sup>ti</sup> & dimid & duo mes' p quib3 solvit . . . . Ead-  
mundo ad firmā ville p annū l s. s. p q<sup>o</sup>libet ac<sup>a</sup>  
viij d.

f Joñs fit Symonis tenet j mes' & iiij ac<sup>s</sup> ĩre & iij rodas  
p<sup>ti</sup> solvendo ad firmā ville xxxviij . . . . .

Wiffs fit Symonis unu mes' & j croftū & xiij ac<sup>s</sup> ĩre  
& ij ac<sup>s</sup> p<sup>ti</sup> solv' ad f<sup>o</sup>mā ville x s.

Philipp<sup>o</sup> de la Barre j mes' & iij ac<sup>s</sup> & dimid ĩre &  
dim' ac<sup>m</sup> p<sup>ti</sup> solvendo ad f<sup>o</sup>mā ville xxxij d.

Symō Semā ij mes' & j croftū & xvj ac<sup>s</sup> ĩre & dimid &  
iij ac<sup>s</sup> p<sup>ti</sup> solv' ad f<sup>o</sup>mā ville xij s.

[Then follow 530 Names of Occupiers, with their  
respective Assessments to the Fee-Farm Rent.]

Oñes isti pñominati solv' fñme ville p redditibz assisis.

Iñm de pasturis iiij<sup>xx</sup> & v ac<sup>s</sup> solv' fñme ville xxxvj s.

Iñm p piscariis aq<sup>arum</sup> solv' fñme ville xiiij s.

Iñm de molendinis cū hulmo que 9tinet viij ac<sup>s</sup> p<sup>ati</sup> & solv' firme ville xv<sup>a</sup>.

*g* Inq<sup>r</sup>' si aliq<sup>s</sup> liber sokemann<sup>9</sup> de antiq<sup>o</sup> ðnico alii sokemaño vendidit vñ alio m<sup>o</sup> aliena9it aliq<sup>d</sup> tenendi libe p cartā.

Dicūt qđ nichil sic vendit' vñ alienat'.

Iñm inqu'rend p singula hundreda q<sup>antū</sup> q<sup>libz</sup> archieps eps &c.

*h* De ñ capitulo nichil sciunt nisi qđ ðns Eadmūd<sup>9</sup> rescipit fñmā ville sciñz centū & xx lib<sup>s</sup> ab hōibz ville tanq<sup>m</sup> feofmarius Reg' p cartam.

Iñm inq<sup>r</sup>' q<sup>antū</sup> q<sup>libz</sup> archieps eps &c.

De hoc capitulo nichil sciunt nisi qđ ðns Edmund<sup>9</sup> tenet villā sicut pdictū est ex dono ðni H. Reg' Pat's E. Reg' &c.

Iñm inq<sup>r</sup>' de q<sup>libz</sup> feod & tenur' &c. scutagiū dari debz & consuevit.

Dicunt qđ nichil inde inter eos.

*i* Iñm inq<sup>r</sup>' q<sup>antū</sup> ðre vñ tenementi q<sup>libz</sup> villan<sup>9</sup> &c.

Dicunt qđ nichil inde sciūt.

*j* Iñm inq<sup>r</sup>' q<sup>i</sup> ñnt 9munem pichar' aut pichariā sepalē &c.

Dicunt qđ ñnt 9munē pichar' tanq<sup>m</sup> ptinentē ad libtātē pdicti manñi ex 9cessionē ðni J. Reg'.

Iñm inq<sup>r</sup>' si aliq<sup>i</sup> tenentes de ðno Rege in capite p baroniā &c.

De hoc capitulo nichil ad eos.

*k* Iñm inq<sup>r</sup>' q<sup>i</sup> clamant ñre libtates q<sup>li9</sup> & quo modo.

Dicūt qđ clamant ñre p cartā Reg' Joñis libtātē tanq<sup>m</sup> spectantē ad manñiū piscandi ab HAYLE usq<sup>z</sup> SWIFTIS-

WERE & inde uti solebant s3 m° dist'bant' p Epm  
Lincol & p ceļos hominib3 p'sc'pt' in alio capitulo.

Iřm inq'r' qui řnt furc' tumbellas &c.

De hoc nich' inř eos nisi de furc' qđ debent řre eas sicut

Rex řuit qñ mañiũ fuit in manu sua.

Iřm inq'r' q' ab antiq° liřas chacias & war'.

De ř capitulo nichil inř eos.

Iřm inq'r' qui de novo app'av' s' liřas chacias.

De hoc capitul' nichil sciunt.

Iřm inquir' qui řntes chacias & warennas ferias &  
m̃cata &c.

De hoc capitulo nichil sciunt.

m Iřm inq'r' si aliq' religiosi teneant aliq's eccl'ias in usus  
pp'os q'z advocacōes ad đnm Reg' debent ptinere.

Dicunt qđ Pior de M'rona tenz eccl'iam de GOMCESTR'  
in pp'os usus ex don' pdecessor' đni E Reg' set de  
cuj' dono & a q° tempe ignorant.

n Iřm inq'r' si q' řre vř tenement' debent řē exchaet' đni  
Reg' vř in custodia sua sint in manu sua vř in manib3  
alioz & si ĩ manib3 alioz in q'z manib3 p quē q'liř q°  
m° q° waranto p quē & a q° tēpe.

Dicunt qđ de ř capitulo nich' sciūt.

Iřm inq'r' q' feod' milit'.

De ř capitulo nich' sciunt.

Iřm inq'r' de sectis antiq's subt'ct' &c.

De hoc capitulo nich' sciunt.

Iřm inq'r' de feod' reg' & feodaliř3 &c.

De ř capitulo nich' inř eos.

Iřm inq'r' q' hundred' sunt in manu đni Reg' & q't ĩ  
manib3 alioz.

Dicunt qđ hundred' de TOULISLUND & hund' de LEY-  
TUNESTON sūt in manu đni Reg' hund' de HYRSTING-  
STON est ĩ manu Abbatis de RAMMESEIE p đnm R.  
ad firmā & hund' de NORMANCROS est in manu Abbat'  
de TORNEYE p đnm Reg' ad firmā.

Iſm inq'r' ſi heres alicuj<sup>9</sup> tenz de dño Rege in capite &c.

De h̄ capitulo nich̄ inſ eos.

Iſm inq'r' ſi aliq<sup>a</sup> dña vſ puella &c.

De h̄ capitulo nich̄ inſ eos.

Iſm inq'r' ſi aliq' t're vſ tenement' q' eē debent eſchaet' dñi Reg'.

De hoc capitulo nich̄ ſciunt.

Iſm inq'r' ſi aliq'd de feudo dñi Reg' &c.

De h̄ capto n' inſ eos.

Iſm inq'r' q' ſunt illi q' debent faĉe ward ad caſtr' dñi Reg'.

De h̄ capto nich̄ inſ eos.

*o* Iſm inq'r' q' c'ſus aq'z ripar' dñi Reg' diſſint & molen-  
din' ſtagn' aut gurgit' levaſint &c.

Dicunt qđ Reg' le Grey Abbas de Rammeseye & P'or  
Hunt' levaverūt gurgites ita qđ naves q̄ t'nsire ſole-  
bant uſq; ad burgū HUNT' ad q̄modū tocī<sup>9</sup> p'vincie mō  
nō poſſūt venire nē p navē nē p batellū.

Iſm inq'r' q' pat'nat<sup>9</sup> abbatiaꝝ &c.

De h̄ capto nich̄ ſciunt.

*p* Iſm inq'r' de t'ris Normānoꝝ &c.

De h̄ capto nich̄ ſciunt.

Iſm inq'r' q<sup>e</sup> & q<sup>t</sup> burgag' placeas vſ t'ras vacuas Rex  
h̄t in civitatibꝝ &c.

De isto capto nich̄ inſ eos.

Iſm inq'r' de f'mar' dñi Reg' tenentibꝝ civitat' burg' vſ  
aliq<sup>a</sup> maſſia.

De hoc capitulo dicunt qđ Rex h̄t qđ h̄re debet q<sup>o</sup>ciens  
taſ casus evenſit.

Iſm inq'r' ſi qui religioſi viri int'verint feod' dñi Reg'  
in toto vſ in parte ubi dñs Rex amittit custodias vſ  
maritagia heredum quali? & a q<sup>o</sup> tempe.

Dicunt qđ nō eſt aliq's qui ſic int'vit.

## No. 3.

## ADMISSIONS TO THE LIBERTIES, A.D. 1367.

## COURT ROLLS 41ST EDWARD 3D.

Cur' de Gumecestre tent die  
Jovis px ps fiñ Omi S̄cor  
Anno Reg' E. trtii post  
Conquestū lxj. Tūc Balli  
Alañ Alred Johis Munde-  
ford.

*Fin 6s. 8d.*

a Richus Dene p assensū  
toci comitatis int'vit libta-  
tem eidm̄ & iurañ ē scdm̄  
consuetudiēm Mānii de Gu-  
mecestr' ob forma que se-  
quiñ vidz qd ipe de celo sit  
fidei p̄dcē comitati & obe-  
diens Ballis & const' ville  
eiusdm̄ et qd solvañ oīes  
redditus & taxaōes suas  
& omia alia oīa trār tēn  
suor penes se portabiñ. Et  
p̄dcē Richus libtatem suam  
hebit & optinebit dū morat  
trahat in p̄dca villa et qū

Court of Godmanchester,  
held on the Thursday next  
after the Feast of All  
Saints, in the 41st year of  
the Reign of Edward the  
3d, after the Conquest.—  
Alexander Alred and John  
Mundeford Bailiffs.

Richard Dene, by consent  
of the whole community  
was admitted to his liberties,  
and sworn according to the  
custom of the Manor of  
Godmanchester in manner  
following—that is to say,  
that he pledges himself to  
be one of the Commonalty,  
and obedient to the Bai-  
liffs, and constantly resid-  
ing in the said town: and  
that he will pay all dues,  
taxes, and other burdens  
levied upon his lands and  
tenements, to the utmost of  
his power. And the said  
Richard shall have and en-  
joy his liberties so long as  
he continues to reside in  
the said town; and when

de villa ꝑdca recedat tūc  
carebit libtate sua, et si  
aliqua tr' vī teñ adquisierit  
nō ex<sup>a</sup> libtatem ꝑdcā tr' &  
teñ sua alienet neq, vendat  
et se iurat est.

he shall leave the said town,  
he shall forfeit his liber-  
ties; and if he shall have  
acquired any lands or te-  
nements, he shall neither  
alienate or sell them to un-  
franchised persons—and he  
is sworn accordingly.

Cur<sup>o</sup> de Gumecestre ten<sup>r</sup> die  
Jovis in ꝑto S<sup>c</sup>e Kātine  
Virg<sup>i</sup> Anno Regn' E. tertii  
Post Conq̃ xli; tūc Balli  
Alanus Alred Joñnes Mun-  
deford.

At a Court held at Godman-  
chester, on the Thursday  
in the Festival of Saint  
Katherine the Virgin, in  
the 41st year of the Reign  
of Edward 3rd, after the  
Conquest. — Alexander  
Alred and John Munde-  
ford, Bailiffs.

*Fin 3s. 4d.*

b Joñnes Chaderlee venit  
hic in Cur' & ꝑ assensū tōti  
comitatis int<sup>r</sup>vit libtatem  
de Gumecestre et iurat ē  
scđm consuetudiēm Manñi  
ob forma que sequit<sup>r</sup> vidz qd  
iꝑe de celo sit fidel comitati  
de Gumecestre & obediens  
Ballis et const<sup>r</sup> ville ꝑdceet qd

John Chaderlee came hi-  
ther to the Court, and with  
the consent of the whole  
Commonalty was admitted  
to the liberties of Godman-  
chester, and sworn accord-  
ing to the custom of the  
Manor, in form following,  
that is to say, — that he  
will be faithful to the Com-  
monalty of Godmanchester,  
and obedient to the Bailiffs,  
and constantly resident in  
the said town. And that he



solvat om̄es reddi? & tax-  
acōes & om̄ia alia om̄ra  
tr̄ar & ten̄ suor ptm bene  
& fidei? solvat. Ac p̄dict  
Joh̄nes tr̄as & ten̄ que ad-  
quisierit viris forinse? n̄  
religiosis vendat n̄ aliene in  
dampnū & p̄iudiciū libtatis  
ville p̄dce.

will pay all rents, charges,  
and other imposts upon his  
lands and tenements faith-  
fully and truly; and the  
aforesaid John shall neither  
sell or alienate any lands or  
tenements that he may ac-  
quire, to strangers, or eccle-  
siastics, to the injury and  
prejudice of the liberties of  
the said town.

### GUMECESTRE.

Cur ten? ibm̄ die decollaçōis Sci Johis Bapte A° Rni  
E. 4—xxi<sup>mo</sup>.

Ad hanc cur<sup>o</sup> Thos Brewst admiss ē ad lib? ville p  
pleg Thos. Brewst, sen<sup>r</sup>. and Joh Page, sen<sup>r</sup>. solvo fin̄ natal  
dm & iuratus est.

c Ad ead cur<sup>o</sup> Thos. Blassett admiss ē ad lib? ville p  
pleg Willi Tooke & Thome Reynold dies solvo fin̄ Sci  
Michi & iuratus est. Fin. xx<sup>d</sup>.

d Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup> Johes Armowgh admiss est ad lib?  
ville p pleg John Sterlyng & Joh Barrett ut pateat in  
capite dies soluo fin̄ nal dm.

d Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup> Thom Warde admiss ē ad lib? ville p  
pleg Joh Shillynge & Joh—solvit manibz iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> &c.

Gumecestre—Cur ten? ibm̄ die Jovis px post Pent  
Anno E. iiij<sup>th</sup> xxiij<sup>o</sup>.

d Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup> Ric Walsheffe admiss ē ad lib? ville p  
fin pateut cap p pleg Tho Frost & P. Cave dies soluo Nat  
Sci Johes Baptiste. Fine vj<sup>s</sup>.

*d* Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup> Johes Felde & Willi fili eius admissi sint ad libtat ville p fin pateut p pleg Joh Barnard & Joh Cylby dies soluo Natis Sci Johis Baptiste. Fin. 26<sup>s</sup>.

Gumecestre—Cur tent<sup>o</sup> ibm die Jovis px an fest Sci Barthomei A<sup>o</sup> Regni E. 4. xxij<sup>o</sup>.

*d* Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup> Ricus Townsende admiss ē ad libtat ville p pleg Will Stodall & Joh Bayns p fin pateut in capite dies soluo ad fin natal dm vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> & resid solut in manibz. Fin xij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>.

Many freedoms were granted this year, and the fine remained stationary at thirteen shillings and four-pence.

Gumecestr<sup>o</sup> Cur<sup>o</sup> ten<sup>t</sup> ibm die Jovis px post festu Anunciaōis beat Marie A<sup>o</sup> Regni Henrici 7—xxiiij.

Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup> venit Johis Lokyngton et readmiss est ad lib<sup>t</sup> ville qui p dīvisis malefact con<sup>t</sup> libert et vicinos fuit excūat et iuratus est et dat de fino put in capit manucapt.

In the reign of Henry 7th the fines varied, and the form of pledges ceased.

Gumecestr<sup>o</sup> Curia tent ibm die jovis prox post festu omīū S<sup>c</sup>or A<sup>o</sup> Rni H. 8. xxij<sup>o</sup>.

Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup> venit Robtus Harrys et ex speciali grā toti Coitat admissus est ad libtatem ville & juratus est & solvit finem ut in capite. Fin. iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>.

In the Reigns of Edward 6th and Philip and Mary the same words.

Elizabeth 1563.—Cur tent ant Pasch A<sup>o</sup> R. v<sup>o</sup>.

*d* Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup> venit Jacobus Symson ex speciali gra toti coitat et admiss est ad libtat ville p & solvit finem put cap in Capit et jurat est. Fin. viij<sup>s</sup>.

In 1674.—26 Carol 2<sup>o</sup>.—Augusti 27<sup>o</sup>.

*d* Ad hanc Cur<sup>o</sup>.—Willus King Cordwinder & Willus filius suis etat duo annor<sup>o</sup> ex spial gra<sup>o</sup> & favor Ballior Burgi pr<sup>o</sup>di admissi sunt in libtm Burgi pr<sup>o</sup>di & solv p fin. £5.

## No. 4.

## GRANT OF FELON'S GOODS, WEIFS AND STRAYS—AS APPURTENANCES OF THE MANOR.

RICHARD 2D. AN. REG. 4°. (AN. DOM. 1381,) MARCH 28TH.

Ricardus dei gra<sup>o</sup> Rex Angl et Fran<sup>c</sup> et Dñs Hib<sup>n</sup> Vicecomiti et Escaetori suis in Co<sup>m</sup> hun<sup>t</sup> qui nunc sunt vel qui p tempore erunt saltm. Cum Dñs Joh<sup>es</sup> quondam Rex Angl progenitor nr<sup>o</sup> p cartam suam quam dñs E quondam Rex Angl abavus nr<sup>o</sup> Ac dñs E nu<sup>p</sup> Rex Angl avus nr<sup>o</sup> p lras suas patentes confirmavunt concessisset confirmasset hoib suis de Gumecestre Ma<sup>n</sup>m suū de Gumecestre tenend de se et heredib suis ad feodi firmam cū omib ad firmam illius Ma<sup>n</sup>ii ptinentibz p sexies viginti libras ad scēcm suū Et voluisset et ferm<sup>l</sup> pcepisset qd p<sup>d</sup>ci hoies sui de Gumecestre herent et tenerent de se et heredibz suis p<sup>d</sup>cām Ma<sup>n</sup>m de Gumecestre bene et in pace libe et quite et integre cū omibz libtatibz ad firmam p<sup>d</sup> Ma<sup>n</sup>ii ptinentib p p<sup>d</sup>cām firmam annuam scilt sexies viginti libras sicut p<sup>d</sup>cm est q<sup>m</sup>diu sibi p<sup>d</sup>cām firmam bene redderent. Et nos concessionem et confirmacōnes p<sup>d</sup>cas ratas hentes et q<sup>tas</sup> eas p nobis et heredib nris quantū in nobis est pfatis hoib de Gumecestre et heredibz et successoribz suis hoibz Ma<sup>n</sup>ii p<sup>d</sup>ci ratificam<sup>n</sup> approbam<sup>n</sup> concesserm<sup>n</sup> et confirmam<sup>n</sup> sicut carta et lre p<sup>d</sup>ce ronabili<sup>r</sup> testant<sup>r</sup> et p<sup>ut</sup> iidem hoies et antecessores sui Ma<sup>n</sup>m p<sup>d</sup>cm hactenus ronabili<sup>r</sup> tenuerunt put in lris nris patentibz inde confeccis plenius continet<sup>r</sup>. Onor<sup>o</sup> quidem Vbor<sup>o</sup> genalm et libtatu p<sup>textu</sup> isdem hoies et antecessores sui hoies nram p<sup>d</sup>cā iam villa de Gurmunchestre vulgari<sup>r</sup> nuncupati Catalla felonū et fugitivor<sup>o</sup> necnon aialia et Catalla que dicunt Waif et Stray ibidem accidencia tanq<sup>m</sup> ad firmā suam p<sup>d</sup>cam ptinencia a tempore confeccionis carte p<sup>d</sup>ci Regis Joh<sup>is</sup> progenitoris nri

semp hactenū huerint et hēre debeant sicut dicunt. Voſ p̄cipiū qd si voſ constare porto ita esse tunc hoies nros Mañii p̄dci huiusmodi catalla felonū et fugitivor<sup>o</sup> ac aialia et catalla que dicunt Waif et Stray ibidem accidencia absq̄ impedimento aliquo seu calumpina hēre p̄mittatis-put ea hēre debent ipiq̄ et antecessores sui hoies Manii p̄dci ea a tempore p̄dco hucusq̄ hēre consueverunt iposq̄ hoies libtatibz illis et omibz aliis ad firmam Mañii p̄dci p̄tinentibz quibz virtute carte hrar et confirmaōum p̄dcar<sup>o</sup> hactenus rōnabili<sup>r</sup> usi sunt et gavisi uti et gaudere p̄mittatis iuxta tenorem carte hrar<sup>o</sup> et confirmaōis nre p̄dtar<sup>o</sup> iposq̄ contiñ tenorem non eārdem molestantes in aliquo seu q<sup>u</sup>antes.

T. me ip̄o apud Westm̄ xxvij die Marcii Anno r  
ñ quarto.

SCARLE.

No. 5.

CERTIFICATE OF GODMANCHESTER BEING ANCIENT DEMESNE, THEREFORE FREE OF TOLLS, &c.—RICHARD 2D.  
AN. REGNI 4<sup>o</sup>, A. D. 1381.

Ricardus dei gra<sup>o</sup> Rex Angl̄ et Franc̄ et Dñs Hibñ omniſ et singulis Maioribus Constabulariis Ballivis et aliis Ministris ubicumq̄ infra regnū nr̄m Angl̄ constitutis ad quos p̄sentes lre p̄nērunt saltm. Cum scdm̄ consuetudinem in regno nro Angl̄ hactenus aptemam et approbatam hoies de antiquo dñico corone Angl̄ quieti sint et esse debeant a p̄staōe theolonei p̄ totu<sup>o</sup> regnū nr̄m Voſ et cuilibet vr̄m p̄cipiū et mandam̄ qd hoies de mañio nro de Gumecestre iam vulgari<sup>r</sup> nuncupato Gurmunchestre quod

est de antiquo dñico corone Angl de huiusmodi theolonio de rebz et bonis suis vob alicubi pstand quietos esse pmittatis iuxta consuetudinem pdcam. Et districcoem siquam pfatis hoib seu eor<sup>o</sup> alicui ea occone fecitis sine dilone relaxetis eisdem.—T. me ipo apud Westm xxviii die Marcii Anno rē nri quarto.

SCARLE.

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No. 6.

RICHARD 2D'S CHARTER, BEING A CONFIRMATION OF FORMER CHARTERS, EXPRESSING THE PRIVS OF FELON'S GOODS, INFANGTHEF, OUTFANGTHEF, FREEDOM OF TOLLS, &c. AN. REGNI 15<sup>o</sup> (A. DOM. 1392.) FEB<sup>u</sup> 15.—FINE £40.

Ricardus Dei gracia Rex Anglie et Francie et Dominus Hibnie Archiepis Epis Abbibz Prioribus Ducibus Comitibz Baronibus Justic Vicecomitibz Prepositis Ministris et omnibus Ballivis et fidelibus suis salutem. Sciatis quod cum dominus Johannes quondum Rex Angl pgenitor noster p cartam suam quam dominus E quondam Rex Angl filius Regis Henr<sup>o</sup> p cartam suam ac dñs E. nup Rex Angl Anus nr<sup>o</sup> p cartam suam et nos similiter p cartam nram confirmanimus concessisset et p dcam cartam suam confirmasset hominibz suis de Gumcestre Mañium suum de Gumcestre tenend de ipo Rege Johanne et heredibus suis ad feodi firmam cum omnibz ad firmam illius Manii ptenentibz p sexies viginti libras pondere et numo p annu put in cartis et confirmacionibz pdcis plenius continetur. Jamq homines nri pdci Manii de Gumcestr<sup>o</sup> nobis supplicavint qd cum ipi virtute dce carte ipius Regis Johis et vbor<sup>o</sup> genalium in eadem contentor<sup>o</sup> inter alias diſas franchisesias et libertates habuerint catalla

felonum et fugitivor<sup>o</sup> et felonum de seipsis. Ac etiam illor<sup>o</sup> qui regnum nr<sup>o</sup>m Angl<sup>i</sup> abiuraverunt et infangethef et outfangerthef quousq<sup>e</sup> iam tarde de libertatibus illis impetiti fuerunt et pturbati. Delimus libertates pdcas eis p vba spialia et expssa concedere et confirmare. Nos attendentes dampna et depdita que homines nri pdci in terris et tefi ac molendinis suis eiusdem Mani p inundacōs aquar<sup>o</sup> dulcium sepius paciunt<sup>r</sup>. De gra<sup>o</sup> nra<sup>o</sup> spali et ad supplicacōem homi pdcor<sup>o</sup> nec non p finem quadriginta librar<sup>o</sup> nobis in hanapio nro p ipos solutar<sup>o</sup> concessimus et p p<sup>s</sup>enti carta nostra confirmanimus p nobis et heredibus nris quantum in nobis est eisdem hominibz et successoribz suis qd ipi hēant et teneant dcām Manium cum p<sup>t</sup>in<sup>i</sup> et insup qd hēant omimoda catalla felonum et fugitivor<sup>o</sup> et felonum de seipsis necnon vtlagator<sup>o</sup> et etiam illor qui regnum nr<sup>o</sup>m Angl<sup>i</sup> abiuravunt et infangerthef et outfangerthef et omimodas alias forisfcuras infra dcām Manium et libatem eiusdem tam de indigenis et residentibus qm de fornicecis et extraneis imppm. Concessimus insup p nobis et heredibz nris quantum in nobis est eisdem hominibz et successoribus suis qd ipi quieti sint de theolonio muragio stallagio passagio et pavagio p totum regnum nr<sup>o</sup>m supradcām imppetuum.” Quare volumus et firmiter pcipimus p nobis et heredibus nris qd predci hoies nri et successores sui hēant et teneant sibi et successoribus suis pdcis omes et singulas franchisesias libertates et quietancias pdcas eis q et ear<sup>o</sup> qualibet plene gaudeant et utant imppm sicut pdcām est. Hiis testibz venerabilibz pri<sup>o</sup>bz W. Archiepo Cantuar<sup>o</sup> totus Angl<sup>i</sup> primate. Thoma Archiepo Ebor<sup>o</sup> Angl<sup>i</sup> primate Cancellar nro. P. London W. Wynton W. Dunelm. Sar Thes nri Epis. Johanne Aquitannie et Lancastr<sup>o</sup> et Thoma Gloucestr<sup>o</sup> ducibus Avunculis nris carissimis Henr<sup>o</sup> Derb. Arundell, et Johanne Huntynghdon camario

nostro et fratre nro carissimo Comitibus Johanne Devereux milite Senescallo hospic nri magro. Edmundo Stafford Custode primati sigilli nri et avis. Dat p manum nram apud Westmonasterium quinto decimo die februari Anno Regni nri quinto decimo.

p bre de primato sigillo.

SCARLE.

No. 7.

Ricardus Dei gra<sup>o</sup> Rex Anglie et Francie et Dns Hibn<sup>o</sup> Omni<sup>o</sup> et singulis Justi<sup>o</sup> Vicecomitibz Escaetoribz Coronatoribz Maioribz Constabulariis Ballivis Ministris et aliis fidelibz suis ad quos p<sup>o</sup>sent<sup>o</sup>es ire pvenint saltm. Cum Dom. Johannes quondam Rex Angl (Verba Chartae recitat<sup>r</sup> usque) sup<sup>o</sup>dcam imppm p<sup>o</sup>ut in cartis et confirmacoibz p<sup>o</sup>dcis plenius continet<sup>r</sup>. Vob et cuil<sup>o</sup> vrm<sup>o</sup> mandam<sup>o</sup> firunt immigentes qd hoies dci Manii de Gumber<sup>o</sup> iam vocati Gurmuncestre et successores suos omibz et singulis libtatibz et quietanciis p<sup>o</sup>dcis absq<sup>o</sup> impedimento aliquo uti et gaudere pmittatis iuxta tenorem cartar<sup>o</sup> et confirmacioem p<sup>o</sup>dcar<sup>o</sup> ipos aut eor<sup>o</sup> aliquem cont<sup>o</sup> tenorem et effcm eardem non molestantes in aliquo seu g<sup>o</sup>uantes. T. me ipo apud Westm xvj die Febr. Anno r. n. quinto decimo.

SCARLE.

## No. 8.

The Charter of James 1st having been translated and embodied in the work, we shall not here insert a copy of the original, as it is destitute of all literary interest ; and for other purposes may be referred to in the Record Chamber.

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## No. 9.

INSTITUTION OF, AND PRESENTATION TO, THE VICARAGE.

## INQUISITIO.

Tempore dñi Hugoni Wealls, olim Epis̄ci Lincolñ qui cœpit possessionem Ecclesiæ Lincolñ Anno dñi mill<sup>mo</sup> ducentimo nono, Anno duodecimo Johannis Rex Angliæ. Et vixit Ep̄us Lincolñ usque 7<sup>o</sup> Februarii, 1234, viz. 19<sup>mo</sup> Henry 3<sup>i</sup> Rex Angliæ.

Gumecester.—Rob<sup>t</sup> Clicus presentat per Priorem et Conventu de Merton ad perpetuam Vicariam Ecclesiæ de Gumecester predictum per inquisitionem, super eadem Ecclesiæ Vicarius perpetuus institutus. Qui quidem Vicarius ad presentationem predictum Prioris et Conventus de Merton instituendū pr̄piēt nōie Vicaries omnes obventuros Altaris et omnes decimas et alios preventus ejusdem Ecclesiæ, præter decimas garbarum et terra Ecclesiæ cum tentibus ejusdem. Et habet mansū scil<sup>t</sup> Terra quæ fuit Arrabil que consuevit Reddā quinque solidos : et aliud mansu qui fuit rad qui consuevit solvere tres solidos : et quatuor acras prati in prato de Brampton cum onere, &c. Et debet idem Vicarius sustinere Orationem ordinatim Cēpalia qū Archidatia et in propria persona in eadem Ecclesiæ ministrabit et providebit quod sufficientur et honesta divina celebrantur in eodem.

*h*



## No. 10.

INQUEST RELATING TO RECTORIAL CORN, TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE POOR OF GODMANCHESTER ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY WEEK DURING LENT.—A. D. 1443,—(p. 333.)

Universis sancte matris ecclesie fidiis ad quos presentes ire pverint Willmus permissione divina Lincoln Epus salutem in domino sempiternam et ppetuam memoriam rei teste. Nuper siquidem dum Archidiaconatus nr<sup>o</sup> de Huntyngdon ecclesiasq, clerum et pplm eiusdem in nro ordinario visitaremus per inquisitionem nram pparatoriam ——— reperimus nobis directu fore et delatum qd Prior et Conventus Prioratus de Merton ordinis sancti Augustini habet eccliam parochialem de Gumecester nre dioce et Archinatus predict in pprios usus hentes ac omnia eiusdem ecclesie decimis et altariis percipientis nichil orfmo de fructibus ipius ecclesie nomine elemosine in paupes eiusdem ecclesie parochianos nec habent vas? Annis distribuerunt nec curarunt sic distribuere. Nos igitur prefator priorem et conventum super penam ——— coram nobis ad iudiciu evocari ——— vero Prior et Conventus coram dilecto in Xre filio Magro Johanni Derby comissario nro in ecclesia parochiali de Sleaford dicte nre dioce per frem Willm West dicti prioratus Canonicum ex parte Prioris et conventus procuratorem ac parochiam dic ecclesie parochie de Gumecestr pdict per dnm Thomam Baker ac etiam procuratorem eordem pochior ——— et sufficient constitutos quintodecim die mensis Marcii ultimo pretiti ad iudicis comparuerunt et deinde pars pfatorum Parochianorum contra pfatos Priorem et conventum articulando abierit qd iidem Prior et conventus nichil put supius est expressum de fructibus dicte ecclesie de Gumecestre predict in paupes parochianos eiusdem ecclesie a longo retro Annis distribuerunt qui singulis annis singulis diebus

M<sup>o</sup>curii et Venis antiqua consuetudine solebant et consueverunt distribuere in<sup>l</sup> paupes parochianos dicte Ecclie de Gumece<sup>l</sup> maxime indigentes tres modios granor<sup>o</sup> videt<sup>l</sup> unū modiu<sup>l</sup> frumenti, unū modiu<sup>l</sup> silignis et unū modiu<sup>l</sup> pisarum. Ad que rōndem pars dictorum prior et conventus dixit narrata per partem eorundem parochianorum vera non esse. Tandem partes eōdem cum deliberacione matura ad concordiam et ad elemosinam faciend<sup>l</sup> amicabilit<sup>l</sup> mutus ——— tractantes et coram eodem Ma<sup>g</sup>ro Johanne Derby Commissario n<sup>ro</sup> eodem die iudiciali<sup>l</sup> sedente comparentes sic conquieverunt concordarunt et condestenderunt qd procuratores domus sive Prioratus de Merton p<sup>d</sup>icta qui pro tempore fiūnt in dicta ecclia deputat singulis primis septimanis quadragesimo singulis annis futuris liberabunt seu facient liberari Vicario et Ballivis ville de Gumecestr<sup>l</sup> predict qui pro tempore fuerint nomine dicto<sup>r</sup> prioris et conventus de fructibus illius ecclie in elemosina tria quartia puri frumenti tria quartia siliginis et unum quartuum pur<sup>o</sup> orde<sup>i</sup> in<sup>l</sup> pau<sup>l</sup>es parochianos eiusdem ecclie iux<sup>o</sup> discrecionem Vicarii et Ballivorum huiusmodi distribuend<sup>l</sup>. Ad que faciend<sup>l</sup> et fide<sup>l</sup>i<sup>l</sup> obs<sup>o</sup>vand dicta pars prioris et conventus de Merton predict nomine dominorum suorū dict W<sup>l</sup>l<sup>l</sup>m West ad sanita dei evingelia tacto libro p<sup>f</sup>acit corporale et iuravit, unde idem Mag<sup>r</sup> Johannis Derby de consensu et petitione parochinor<sup>o</sup> et p<sup>f</sup>ator priorem et conventum de Merton predict<sup>l</sup> ad h<sup>l</sup>mod elemosinam in forma et modo p<sup>m</sup>issis faciendam—precepti sui ——— condempnavit. In quorum om<sup>n</sup>i testimoniū sigillum obser<sup>o</sup> ad causas fecimus appōui. Da<sup>l</sup> in Castro n<sup>re</sup> de — sigilli h<sup>l</sup>mod apposicoem xxvij die Mensis Januarii Anno domini millesimo quadringen<sup>mo</sup> quadragesimo tercio.

[The blanks occurring in this Inquest point out erasures in the original, the shattered parchment of which is in the Record Chamber.]

## No. 11.

ARBITRATION BETWEEN THE PRIOR OF HUNTINGDON AND  
MEN OF GODMANCHESTER, RESPECTING THE CAUSE-  
WAY AND SEVEN SMALL BRIDGES, A.D. 1496. (P. 368.)

To all Xřen People to whom theis pnt Lřes of  
Award endented shall come.

Robert Synett, of the town of Huntingdon, oon of the King's Justices of his Pease, to be consřved in y<sup>e</sup> countie of Huntingdon, assigned Thořs Elsam Bailly, of the said town, and John Horwode, yongr, of Herford beside Huntingdon forsaid, Gentilmen, senden greeting in our Lord eřlasting.—Wheras the Reřnde Father in God, John Cokfeld, Prior of the Priory of Channons, or of the House and Church of our Lady Saint Mary Virgyn, of Huntingdon, on that oon partie;—and John Mynstechambyr, oon of the Justices of Peas, to be consřved of o<sup>r</sup> said Souvaryn Lord the King, in his said countie of Huntingdon, assigned, and John Bayons, now Bailiff of the town of Gumecestre, on y<sup>e</sup> other ptie, of thair comen assent, the xx<sup>th</sup> daie of January, y<sup>e</sup> 2d yere of y<sup>e</sup> reigne of o<sup>r</sup> said Souvaryn Lord King Henry the 7th, submitted thann to stand and oubey to tharbitrement, lawse, ordeřnce, decree, and jugement of us the said Robert Synett, Thořs Elsam, and John Horwod, arbitrators by the said pties of thair comen assent, indifferently chosen of, for, and upon the right, title, and possession of a annuall rent yerely groyng out of certain acres and rodes of medowē lying among other in a holme, now called Cawseholme, lying by the cawce and finale brigg ledyng the waie from Gumecestre forsaid to y<sup>e</sup> burgh of Huntingdon. And of and upon all man<sup>r</sup> of actons, suytt, demands, quereles and stryves, that by reason and occasion of any clayme for the said rent in

any man wise betwix the said pties, had or moeved from the begynnynge of the world unto the daie of the date of certain agreements of and for arbitrement betwix the said pties therupon made, bering date the daie and yere above-said. And suche arbitrement, lawe, ordeñnce, decree, and jugement of us the said arbitroures of and in the pmisses, the said pties agree truely to kepe, hold, and fulfill, both pties ben bownden eithre to other in £100 of monaie, so that the same arbitrement, lawe, ordeñnce, decree, and jugement of us the said arbitroures now made and holden in arbitrement, from the 15th of August next comyng aft<sup>r</sup> the date of thies pnts, as by the said obligacons wherof the same aft<sup>r</sup> the fōme forsaid wer rehersed be mouth, in the howse of John Tythinth of Huntingdon forsaid before both pties, as maie appere more at large.—Know ye that we, the said arbitroures, taking upon us the office and charge of arbitrement for the appeassing and ceassing of the longe contynued stryves, decensyons, and the importable charges of a certyn suyt in the lawe, which, as we understand, have cost the said church and howse of Huntingdon, as well in the daies of the Prior that now is as in the daies of his pdecessors, more than vast sums, whereby the same now is greatly empovished and decaid : And for the well and peas of the pmisses, and of love between the same parties from henceforward to be had, contynued, and norished, have seen thevidence and argument of either of the said pties, touching, among other things, the said rent ; and herd thair allegiance, answers, and replicacons upon the same ; and also brought the said pties to yē'd before us, and somoned by easy meanes, offres, and profres, betwene them the pties. And with gode advisement and ripe deliberacon therupon had, We have demed, ordeigned, decreed, juged, and arbitred, the date of making of these

p̄nts of and upon the premisses, the full aggrement and assent of bothe the said p̄ties first had in forme that foloweth.—That is to witte—First, wher<sup>o</sup> We, the said arbitrours, before the daie of yeylding this our award, conceyved and did to make y<sup>e</sup> obligacons consealed w<sup>t</sup> cōdicons endorced upon the same, in the form of the whiche the Prior and Conuent of Channons of Huntingdon shulde be bownde to the said Balliffe of Gumecestre in C mrcs of lawfull monie of England, to be paid to the said Bailiffs and their Successours Bailliffs, if the same Prior, Conuent, or their Successours shuld disoubey this our award, decree, and arbitrement. And in the other obligacon the said Bailliffs and Coñaltie in like maner shulde be bownde to the said Prior and Conuent as in the same obligacons and condicons appereth more at large, which obligacons were delyvred to bothe p̄ties in convenable season to have sealed and to have been delyvred to us before the geving of this our arbitrement, and then eithre partie to have recyved agen his own single obligacō for-said. And in Saint Mary's Church of Huntingdon, at Corpie Xristi aultre, the daie of the date of theis p̄nts before we entered to our said arbitrement, the said Bailiffs and Coñalty the obligacon sealed under their comen seal. And than and there were redy to have delyvred to us the same, if the said Prior wolde have ther delyvred to us the other obligacon, sealed with his comen seal, which obligacon was not than sealed, bnt he promysed that the same shuld be sealed, wherupon and for our award shuld be effectual and not in vayn. And for that we had the other two sengle obligacons as abovesaid, the oon sealed und̄ the seal of the said Prior and the other und̄ the sevall seales of the said Bailliffs of Gumecestre, with condicons rehersed be mouth as is above written.

We, the said arbitrours, delyvred than to the Prior the

said single obligacon of the Bailliffs under their seales. And to the Bailiffs the said single obligacon of the said Prior, sealed with his seale as their several dede, in cas this our award were by any of thaim pties suittors, or any other for them, or by their means disoubeid, as is before rehersed. Wherefore and spially that a fynall peas may be had between the said pties for eṽmore, We award, ordeign, decree, and deign, that as well the said Prior as the said Bailiffs shall w'in vj daies afr Easter daie next comyng delivr<sup>9</sup> to us the said arbitrours, or to oon of us their said ij obligacons w<sup>t</sup> condicons endorced to them delivered to seale as is forsaide, sealed und<sup>r</sup> their comen seales, as is specified in the same obligacon. Also we award, ordeigne, decree, and deme, that the said Prior and Conuent, and their successours, shall, w<sup>t</sup>out any mañ, let, intupcon, or greef for be the said Bailliffs and Cōialtie, or of their successours for eṽmore, reteyn and kepe from hensforth peasable possession of, and in all the said pasture or medowe, called Cawseholme, lying betwix the small brygges and cawse that extend themself from the said town of Gumecestre unto the greate brygge of Huntingdon, w<sup>t</sup> all mañ of prffits and comodities of wilowes and other trees growyng or to growe in and upon the same medowe, except and resrved all way to the Chauntry Preste of the town of Gumecestre forsaide and to his successours for eṽmore, a rode of medowe lying in the said pasture or medowe in the west-head or end of the same towards Gumecestre, w<sup>t</sup> the proffitts of the wilowes and other trees next aboute the said rode, in as good and peasable wise, and in as ample mañ and fo<sup>r</sup>me as the Chauntry Preste that now is ther, or any of his predece-sours have had and enioyed the same, which rode w<sup>t</sup> th' apprtēāces we knowe welle have ben out of tyme of any mannes mynde that now is, belonging to the Chauntrye

of Gumecestre forsaied. Also We award, ordeign, decree, and deme that the said Prior and Conuent, and their suçc̃ shall paie yerely at the ffeste of Saint Michell tharchangell for eũmore by the hands of the said Prior or his successours Priors, or by the hands of oon of their Brethren or Fraternity at the said town of Gumecestr' to the Bailiffs ther, and their successours, Bailliffs, an annuell rent of 18*d.*, for the rent of the said medowe, except before except. And that the paiement of the said rent begyn at the ffest of Saint Michell tharchangell next folowing the date hereof, which shall be in the yere of our Lord God, 1487, and so yerely in ppetuite at like Feste. And for as moche as we fynde that for the ease of the said Prior and his Successours, a brigge mighte be laide on the Dyke rennyng betwene the said cawse and the said Holme, for carriage of hay out of the same Holme, and to lede into the same bests at suche tyme as shall please the said Priours. We award, ordeyn, decree, and deme, that as often as the hay in said medowe shall be redy to carry, that the said Prior and Conuent, and their successours, may ley on the diche a brigge in the place ther it hath ben used to ley before time, that is to say, at thende of the same Holme towards the said greate brigge of Huntingdon from the said cawse to the said Holme, provided alway that the water in the said diche be not letted by any pte of the said brigge of the redy cours and passage, as it hath or may have before the layer of the same brigge. And if it shall happen the water to arise before the tyme that the said brigge of easement be adborded and taken away by the said Prior for the tyme beyng, or his assignes, in suche heght and wise that the water in the said diche may not have redy cours and passage, than it shall be leaful to the said Bailliffs for the tyme being, or their assignes, to w'drawe the said brigge, and ley it on the next lande unto

tyme the said water be abated. Also We award, ordeyn, decree and deme that the Chauntry Preste of Gumecester forsaid, and his successours, Chauntry Prestes ther, duryng tyme of leyer of the brigge forsaid, on the said diche laide by the said Prior for the tyme beyng, may leefully, w<sup>t</sup>out let or interruption of any psone, make cariage of his own hay or other things out or into, or from his said rode in the said Holme at his or their plesure. Also for as much as we find that the repayr of the cawse and smalle brigges betweene the said townes of Huntingdon and Gumecestre aforsaid belongeth to the Prior and Conuent forsaid, and that for fault of reparacon the free-stones of the said small brigges and other flag-stones, with the gravell of the said cawse, at divers tymes befor these daies, and yet daiely fallen down into the diches on both sides of the said cawce, and so will do as hertfor<sup>o</sup> in like man<sup>r</sup>—whiche shuld be growe to greate hurt if the said Prior and Conuent of Huntingdon did not stop the same again. We, the said arbitrous in th p<sup>m</sup>sses authorize, for the more ease of the said Prior and Conuent, to take up agen the said free stones, and also to take means nigh to the said cawce for enhawnsyng of the same, and to clense the diche next the said Holme for defence of the same. Also we award, ordeyn, decree, and deme that the said Prior and his Successours, at any tyme that they shall repair the said brigges or cawce, may take up out of both diches on either side of the said small brigges or cawce suche free stones, gravel, and other means that they shall fynde w<sup>i</sup>n the same diches for repair forsaid oonly, and so of pieces of tymber and other thyngs in either of the said diches, and take them up at ther pls<sup>r</sup>e that serveth unto the said repair in any man<sup>r</sup> wise w<sup>t</sup>out impediment, hurt, greve, or gaynsaying in anywise of the said Bailiffs and Coialtie, or their successours, or any of them for e<sup>v</sup>more Pro-



vided always, that in the taking up of the said stones, gravell, means setting or takyng up of piles, the several grounds of the said Bailiffs and Comaltie, nor the wilowes growyng on the south est side of the said Holme, or on either side of that dicke ther<sup>o</sup>, in no maner wise be hurtt or let by the said Prior, his Successours or Assigns, w<sup>o</sup>ut licence of the said Bailliffs or their successours, Bailliffs of the said town of Gumecestre.

On this We award, ordeyn, and deme, that if any ambiguite or difficultie hereafter be fowned, taken, or conceyved by the said parties, or any of tham, in any worde, reason, or rehersell of y<sup>e</sup> same, or any ptie therof, that than both pties and any of tham shall have recours to us the said arbitrours, or any of us ded to tham or hym that shall survyve. And our or any of our in that cas, exposicon, and reformacon therin, shall pforme and fullfill.— In witnesse of all the pmisses to theis ow<sup>r</sup> pnt fres of award endented, We, the said Arbitrours, have put our seales. Geven at Huntingdon, in Saint Mary Church, on Good-fridaie, the ij<sup>de</sup> yere of the reyne of o<sup>r</sup> Sovraign Lord King Henry the Seventh.

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